In addition to daily routine activities and maintenance, our staff (77 full-time, four permanent part-time, and 20 seasonal and co-op employees) was involved with the completion of capital improvement projects, upgrades, and traffic signal maintenance totaling $26,182,450.

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Butler County Engineer's Office
April 1, 2020

To the Citizens and Board of County Commissioners of Butler County, Ohio:

I respectfully present the Butler County Engineer’s 2019 Annual Report for your review. Each project listed in this report has the direct involvement of the Butler County Engineer’s Office (BCEO), including planning and engineering, funding, administration of the contract, and/or construction and inspection.

This summary of 2019 Activity provides only a partial overview of who we are and what we do. It details over $26 million in completed capital improvements of the $54 million planned (two projects in progress) and various forms of maintenance last year, including seven bridge projects, 36 culvert projects, four intersection projects, one interchange project, four roadway projects, and over 43 miles of resurfacing.

We at the BCEO not only work to keep our roads safe and up to date but focus on upgrading Butler County’s infrastructure as a means to spur economic growth. Many hours, months, and sometimes years of planning are essential to selecting a project and getting it ready for construction. Identifying and securing funding occurs early in the process, and fortunately, we have an outstanding staff that understands how to successfully obtain grants, most of which are issued on a competitive basis. A few such 2019 projects requiring federal funding are the Lanes Mill Road bridge replacement in Milford Township, the widening of Cincinnati Dayton Road and bridge replacement in West Chester Township, and the widening of Millikin Road in Liberty Township. These remarkable improvements and the others listed in this report are a testament to our commitment to efficiently enhance the safety and capacity in the Butler County transportation network.

Ongoing maintenance and construction of County roads and bridges are funded primarily by license plate fees and gasoline tax revenues. I am grateful to our Ohio legislators for the recent statewide gas tax increase, which allows us to sustain our resurfacing program, providing a higher quality road network with better long-term maintenance. You can be confident in knowing that our staff is persistently exploring new avenues to stretch your tax dollars as best we can to make your commute safer.

Safe roads now and a solid plan for the future is what we are all about at the BCEO. Moving forward often requires looking back; our partnership with West Chester Township over the years enabled us to build a roadway network in the Union Centre area that stimulates economic development. In our continuing effort to improve and foster this growing economy, 2019 was the year we began the improvement of the interchange by converting it to a Diverging Diamond Interchange. As I look ahead to future capital improvements, I know that it is through the cooperation of Butler County’s numerous local governments, the private sector, and the support of our citizens that we are able to make a difference.

Thanks for your continued trust and support as your County Engineer. Please feel free to contact us at the BCEO with your concerns and suggestions for how we can improve our service. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Very truly yours,

Gregory J. Wilkens, P.E., P.S.
Butler County Engineer
2019 PROJECTS

Bridges

The Butler County Engineer’s Office performs an annual inspection of all bridges on County and Township roads. Some bridges receive inspection two or more times per year due to their worsened condition. The BCEO had inspection and maintenance responsibility for 407 bridges (structures with a clear span of ten feet or greater) at the end of 2019. There were a total of 7 bridge projects with a total cost of $2,250,425.

Federal Funds
- Contract 2018-18 Bridge Replacement (Design-Build)
  Lanes Mill Road Bridge #02.519
  Total Construction Cost: $1,957,935
Local Funds by Contract

Contract 2019-25 Bridge Beam Replacement
Alert New London Road bridge BUT-222-0142 (over Howard Creek)
Total Construction Cost: $219,319

Local Funds by Force Account

Bennington Drive Bridge #0.833 - repair
Total Construction Cost: $12,342

Cedar Creek Drive Bridge #0.037 - repair
Total Construction Cost: $7,943

Le Saint Drive Bridge #0.072 - repair
Total Construction Cost: $17,397

Stone Creek Drive Bridge #0.161 - repair
Total Construction Cost: $9,896

Muhlhauser Road Bridge #0.250 - repair
Total Construction Cost: $25,593
Culverts

The BCEO is responsible for the annual inspection of all 889 culverts located on County and Township roads. A culvert is a conduit running underneath a road to transfer storm water runoff from one side of the road to another. Culverts are technically classified as structures with a clear span of fewer than ten feet and can be made of different types of material. Culvert replacements are, like bridges, determined by the age and condition of the structure and are often planned in conjunction with future resurfacing projects. In 2019, there were 36 culvert projects at a total cost of $634,164.

Local Funds by Force Account

36 county culvert replacements/repairs:
Alert New London Road culvert #2.183
Booth Road culvert #1.613
Brown Road culvert #1.886
Hamilton Mason Road culverts #5.422, #5.452
Hamilton New London Road culverts #1.593, #1.926, #2.296, #3.634, #4.220, #6.149, #6.293, #6.344
Indian Creek Road culvert #3.794
Middletown Germantown Road culverts #0.428, #1.203, #2.129, #2.137
Millikin Road culvert #6.197
Minto Road culverts #0.984, #1.393, #1.871, #1.900, #1.967
North Patterson Road culvert #0.341
Princeton Road culverts #5.215, #6.342, #7.167, #7.249, #7.568
Schradin Road culvert #1.773
Tylersville Road culverts #6.946, #8.592
West Alexandria Road culverts #2.066, #2.096, #2.160
Roadway Improvements

In 2019 there were 4 roadway improvement projects on some of the heaviest traveled roads in Butler County. These Fairfield, Liberty, and West Chester Townships improvement costs totaled $12,470,027.

Federal Funds

Contract 2018 -01 - Phase 1 and Phase 2  Roadway/Intersection Improvement  
Cincinnati Dayton Road (Phase 2)  
Widen to 4 lanes, add sidewalks, widen bridge.  
Total Construction Cost: $7,874,970  
(Additional funding: West Chester Township)

Contract 2018 -04 - Roadway Improvement  
Princeton Road (Jayfield Road to S.R. 747)  
Widen lanes, shoulders, adjust vertical profile.  
Total Construction Cost: $1,995,708  
(Additional funding: BCEO)

Local Funds by Contract

Contract 2019-05 - Roadway Improvement  
Princeton Road  
(Cincinnati Dayton Road to Butler Warren Road)  
Widen shoulders, add turn lanes.  
Total Construction Cost: $1,423,256  
(Funding: Liberty Township)
Contract 2019-04 - Roadway Improvement
Millikin Road (south leg of Lesourdsville West Chester Road to Mauds Hughes Road)
Widen lanes, add shoulders.
Total Construction Cost: $1,176,093
(Funding: BCEO, Liberty Township)

Interchange Improvement

Federal Funds

Contract 2018-15 - Interchange Improvement
I-75 / Tylersville Road Interchange
Add turn lanes, upgrade signals and signage.
Total Construction Cost: $1,305,000
(Additional funding: BCEO)
Intersection Improvements

In 2019 there were 4 intersection improvement projects. Total cost was $2,662,834.

Federal Funds

Contract 2018-07
Yankee Road at Hankins Road
Profile adjustments on both roads, plus full-depth asphalt replacement, curb and storm sewer installation, and culvert replacement on Yankee Road.
Total Construction Cost: $814,505
(Additional funding: BCEO, Lemon Township, Liberty Township)

Local Funds by Contract

Contract 2019-09
Butler Warren Road at The Trails Boulevard
Widen shoulders, add turn lanes.
Total Construction Cost: $408,977
(Funding: BCEO)

Contract 2019-03
Hamilton Mason Road at Gilmore Road
Install roundabout with curb and gutter, add lighting and storm sewer system.
Total Construction Cost: $1,400,813
(Funding: BCEO, Fairfield Township)

Contract 2019-26
Elk Run Drive at S.R. 4
Widen and adjust alignment of Elk Run Drive
Total Construction Cost: $38,539
(Funding: BCEO)
Butler County Engineer’s Office

Paving

The Butler County Engineer’s Office is responsible for 266.7 miles (centerline miles) of roadway and has a 17 to 18 year paving program in place. This system enables roads to be resurfaced regularly and maintained routinely in a more cost-effective manner. There were over 43 miles of County and Township roads resurfaced in 2019. This also includes berming of all major roads paved. Total paving costs totaled $6,372,590.

Local Funds by Contract

Contract 2019–20  Paving of Various County and Township Roads (asphalt)
Fairfield, Milford, Madison, Ross, Liberty, and West Chester Townships
Total miles: 37.55
Total Construction Cost: $6,037,524
(Funding: BCEO, Townships)

Funded by: BCEO
Total miles: 19.33
Total cost: $3,189,490
Alert New London Road – Schradin Road to S.R. 126
Beckett Road – Smith Road to Tylersville Road
Brown Road – House #6115 to Loop Road
Cincinnati Dayton Road – I-75 northbound ramps to Mauds Hughes Road
Cox Road – Tylersville Road to Liberty Way
Hamilton New London Road – Morgan Ross Road to Layhigh Road
Millikin Road – S.R. 4 to Bridge Over S.R. 4 Bypass, Mauds Hughes to Cincinnati Dayton Road.
Minton Road – U.S. 27 to Boyle Road
Port Union Road – Fairfield corp. limits to S.R. 747
Riggs Road – Indian Creek Road to Oxford Township line
Schradin Road – California Road to Alert New London Road
State Line Center Road – Springfield Road to Join Road
Union Centre Boulevard – S.R. 747 to railroad/bridge
Funded by Fairfield Township  
Total miles: 1.97  
Various subdivision streets

Funded by Liberty Township  
Total miles: 3.60  
Mauds Hughes Road - Millikin Road to Kyles Station Road  
Various subdivision streets

Funded by Madison Township  
Total miles: 2.80  
Browns Run Road - Trenton Franklin Road to Hetzler Road

Funded by Oxford Township  
Total miles: 0.56  
Booth Road - railroad tracks to Township limit

Funded by Ross Township  
Total miles: 2.21  
Kirchling Road - Layhigh Road to U.S. 27

Funded by West Chester Township  
Total miles: 7.08  
Barret Road - Station Road to West Chester Road  
Station Road - Barret Road to new pavement  
Various subdivision streets

Contract 2019-23 - Black Mat coating on various Township roads:  
Liberty Township (3.04 miles), Ross Township (1.13 miles), and  
West Chester Township (1.87 miles)  
Total miles: 6.04  
Total cost: $335,066  
(Funding: BCEO, Townships)
Railroad Crossing

Railroad crossing safety is a major concern of the Butler County Engineer's Office. The BCEO works closely with the railroad companies to facilitate road closings and subsequent repairs at various crossings throughout Butler County each year.

**Federal Funds**

Crossing repairs:
- Augspurger Road - St. Clair Township
- Jackson Road - St. Clair Township
- South Main Street - Lemon Township
  (Funding: CSX)

**Other**

**Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds**

Contract 2019-11 Drainage Improvements
- Storm sewer installation
- Church Street (Okeana)
- Total Cost: $98,408
  (Additional funding: Morgan Township)
Contract 2019-12 Drainage Improvements
  Storm sewer repairs
  Amarillo Drive
  Total cost: $22,665
  (Additional funding: Hanover Township)

Local Funds by Contract

Contract 2019-13- Curb and catch basin repair
  Cincinnati Dayton Road - I-75 north ramp to Mauds Hughes Rd.
  Total cost: $45,720
  Funding: BCEO

Contract 2019-21 - Retrace of centerlines, edgelines, stop bars, arrows (paint)
  Various County, Township, and Village roads
  Total cost: $320,617
  (Funding: Butler County, Fairfield, Hanover, Liberty, Madison, Milford, Oxford, Ross, and West Chester Townships)
  Centerline miles for County roads: 148
  Centerline miles for Township roads: 75
  Edgeline miles for County roads: 268
  Edgeline miles for Township roads: 102
The BCEO Construction Department oversees the implementation of all capital improvement contracts for bridge, roadway, paving, and intersection construction. This includes the preparation and management of contracts and payments to contractors, utility coordination and relocation, and construction inspection. Additionally, the Department performs inspections of culverts and pavement conditions. Driveway, right-of-way, and special hauling permits are also reviewed and issued by the Construction Department.
The Operations Department of the Butler County Engineer's Office is responsible for all Force Account projects as well as the general day-to-day maintenance and seasonal-type maintenance of bridges and roads on the County roadway system. This includes ditching and drainage projects, painting and striping of roads, signing, traffic signal maintenance, patching, pavement repair, bridge repair, berm work, guardrail repair, mowing, brush/weed control, and snow and ice control. Also included is emergency maintenance such as storm damage, downed trees, high water and flooding problems, and any debris that poses an immediate safety hazard to the motoring public.

**TOTAL SPENT ON GENERAL MAINTENANCE IN 2019: $1,624,302**

During 2019 the Operations Department added the following equipment:

- 2019 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cabs - 3
- 2020 Chevrolet Equinox - 1
- Western Star Dump Trucks - 2
- Kubota Excavator - 1
- Set of portable vehicle lifts - 1
- Roadside Mowers - 2

Each spring the BCEO advertises for bids on road salt for the following winter. These bids are compiled in conjunction with various Cities and Townships to get a better price. This resource sharing has become critical for local and regional jurisdictions as the cost of fuel and materials steadily increases. The following contract was awarded in 2019:

**Contract 2019-1M** - Bulk-treated sodium chloride for Butler County, various Cities and Townships

Total cost: $73.21 per ton

(Funding: BCEO; BC Metro Parks; BC Water & Sewer; Cities of Fairfield, Oxford; Village of New Miami; Fairfield, Hanover, Liberty, Madison, Milford, Morgan, Oxford, Reily, St. Clair, Wayne, and West Chester Townships)

**2019 SNOW AND ICE CONTROL SUMMARY**

(Jan. 1 - Dec 31)

- **TOTAL ROAD SALT USED:** 5,070.63 TONS
- **TOTAL BRINE/CALCIUM CHLORIDE/BEET JUICE MIX USED:** 24,039 GALLONS
- **TOTAL MAN-HOURS USED FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL:** 5,486.25 HOURS
- **TOTAL LABOR COST:** $160,204.66
- **TOTAL SNOW AND ICE CONTROL COST:** $840,077
The BCEO Engineering Department is responsible for the initial phase of the project, continuing to work with the Construction Department even as a project goes to construction. They’re responsible for prioritizing short-range and long-range construction projects, searching and acquiring local, state, and federal funding sources so that additional projects can be constructed while minimizing local dollars. The Geographic Information System (GIS) Department uses digital mapping of Butler County for query, analysis, and generation of maps and reports. The Survey Department attains topographic field data by utilizing GPS equipment, performs construction layouts and any other surveying needed for our projects. The Design Group is responsible for both in-house design and project management of culverts, bridges, intersections and any other roadway projects on both the Township and County systems. Once plans are complete they are given to our Right-of-Way Acquisition personnel, so that appropriate work agreements and easements can be obtained.

During 2019 the Engineering Department developed plans and right of way acquisition for the following projects:

- **35 culvert replacements**
- **3 bridge replacements/rehabilitations**
  - Tolbert Road Bridge #00.914 - Superstructure Replacement
  - Hamilton Mason Road Bridge #07.491 - Replacement
  - Scott Road Bridge #00.622 - Design/Build
- **5 roadway improvements**
  - Butler Warren Road - sight distance/additional turn lane from Bethany Road to north of Princeton Road
  - Crescentville Road - additional center turn lane from S.R. 747 to I-75
  - Gilmore Road Widening - roundabout to S.R. 129
  - Tylersville Road (Phase 2) - additional westbound lane: I-75 to Cox Road
  - Tylersville Road - additional center turn lane west of Lakota Hills Drive
- **9 intersection improvements**
  - Butler Warren Road at Barret Road Roundabout
  - Butler Warren Road at West Chester Road Roundabout
  - Hamilton Mason Road at Five Points Roundabout
  - Hamilton Mason Road at Mauds Hughes Road Intersection Improvement
  - Lesourdsville West Chester Road at Beckett Ridge Drive Roundabout
  - Liberty Way at Butler Warren Road - turn lane additions
  - Millikin Road at Lesourdsville West Chester Road Roundabout
  - Tylersville Road westbound turn lane to southbound Chantilly Lane
  - Wayne Madison Road at Trenton Road Roundabout
- **3 safety upgrades**
  - Beckett Drainage Project - east of Beckett Ridge Boulevard
  - Guardrail - various roads
  - Trenton Franklin Road - ditch improvement north of Michael Road
- **2 interchanges**
  - Union Centre Boulevard Interchange - converting to a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)
  - S.R. 129/ Liberty Way Interchange Modification
This office reviews construction drawings for proposed residential subdivisions and commercial developments within the unincorporated areas of Butler County. To ensure new development follows the mission of the Butler County Engineer’s Office, three major components of the plan get evaluated – traffic, drainage, and water quality.

**Traffic**
- Street connectivity and layout
- Intersection sight distance
- Horizontal and vertical design of the street

**Drainage**
- Storm water detention basins
- Street storm sewers and emergency flood routes
- General subdivision drainage & grading
- Floodplain delineation and mitigation

**Water**
- Compliance with EPA regulations
- Cleansing of storm water runoff
- Catch basin labeling & creek signage
- Best Management Practices

Growth in residential development continued its upward trend. With 30-year mortgage rates falling to those seen in 2017, people decided to make improvements in hopes of a quick sale. Confidence in the residential market and overall economy spurred investment. Those who made money on the sale of their home quickly reinvested profits in new construction. That, in turn, made 2019 a great year to be a builder. Liberty Township led new home construction in subdivisions like Carriage Hill, Shannon Ridge, Vista Verde, Arbor Park, Carriage Crossings, Fieldstone Farms, and Windsor Estates.

There is considerable strength in non-residential markets, like warehouse and light industries. West Chester Township held the lion’s share in new commercial and industrial construction. West Chester Trade Center, adjacent to Union Centre Boulevard and State Route 747, shows a demand for flex, light industry, and warehouse space. This industrial park and other local developments will add over 2 million square feet of industrial space in West Chester Township alone. These investments not only add tax revenues but generate new jobs in Butler County.
The Tax Map Office is responsible for the following:

- Create and maintain the Butler County Tax Map website
- Maintain tax map and assign new parcel numbers for the Butler County Auditor
- Maintain BCEO GIS infrastructure including roadway mileage
- Assign and verify addresses for the county's unincorporated areas
- Read legal descriptions for the transfer of property for the Butler County Auditor
- Review subdivision plats for the Butler County Planning Department
- Provide mobile projects for the Butler County Engineer's Office Operations Department
- Provide mobile/GPS based projects to collect and maintain infrastructure information in the field
- Scan present as well as historic tax map documents
- Prepare presentations for BCEO projects

Transferring property in Butler County, Ohio has traditionally involved submitting a legal description of the property to the Butler County Engineer's Tax Map Office for pre-approval. Legal description submittals required driving to the Engineer's Tax Map Office to deliver them or sending them via email.

During 2019 the Butler County Engineer's Tax Map Office has again joined forces with the BCEO Information Services Office to create a NEW in-house application for submitting documents to be pre-approved. With their superior programming ability, the BCEO Information Services Office has streamlined the process of pre-approving property legal descriptions and surveys, enabling the public to submit them 24/7.

Users of the BCEO Document Submittals Application will need to create a free account, and an account activation email will be sent with a link to log in to the application. After logging in, users will find multiple resources in addition to the document submittal tab, such as a user guide for the application, and a parcel research tab.

Interested users can access the Document Submittals Application via a link on the Butler County Engineer's Office web site at www.bceo.org. The link's location is as follows: About Us > Departments > Design & Engineering section under GIS / Tax MapRecords / IT. (Follow GIS / Tax Map Page link.)

The application can also be accessed by a link that is available on the Butler County Engineer's Office Tax Map Interactive Map front page, (https://gis.bceo.org/)

As of March 31, 2020, the Butler County Tax Map Office no longer pre-approves legal descriptions through email. All customers must create an account for the BCEO Document Submittals Application.
Butler County Engineer’s Office

Records Office

The Records Office is responsible for all historical records and archives, including road and bridge plans, maps, aerial photos, benchmarks, and land records. It was merged with the GIS Office in 2014, allowing more efficient and effective access for the public to research county records. The Office continually strives to improve record keeping as well as provide quick and easy access for Butler County residents. The office continues to rebuild and replace outdated equipment to ensure the quality and integrity of our records.

Information Services and Technology Office (IT)

Information Services is responsible for acquiring and maintaining all Butler County Engineer’s Office computers, servers, and communication equipment and for the management of the County Engineer’s records and data. This office operates under the premise that changes in computer systems and planning should be a dynamic process improving efficiency and services, reducing costs, and providing the County with up-to-date management tools to better serve the public. Information Services Office (IT) support services include programming, personal computer hardware and software support, records scanning, logistical support, and network services.

The Information Technologies Office not only created a new document submittals program for the Tax Map Office but also began working with the Butler County Storm Water District and Development Services Department in 2019 to create an application that will streamline the tracking of bonds and aid in managing the County’s ditch petitions. The proficient programming ability of the BCEO IT office enables the Butler County Engineer’s Office to use cutting edge technology to perform tasks in many of our offices that would otherwise be much more labor-intensive. These applications not only save our employees time but offer a historic archival of data previously only available manually. Our goal is to provide customers and our employees with convenient, time-saving access to the information they need to perform their jobs and to provide a more accessible and economical way to archive information for our office.
## 2019 Subdivision Development

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</table>

## Development in Butler County Since 2009

![Graph showing development since 2009]
The BCEO Traffic Office is responsible for the engineering, design, installation, and maintenance of all traffic control devices, including signals, signage, and lane markings. Speed limits are also established by this Office, which conducts speed studies in some cases to determine if a speed limit should be changed. Various traffic studies are performed in the planning of future roadway projects utilizing data that is collected and maintained by the Office, including traffic counts and accident data.

Specifically, in 2019, the Traffic Office executed the following:

- Maintained 74 traffic signals, 2 flashers, 4 pedestrian signals ($90,500)
- Maintained 20 school zone signals - (school flashers)
- Maintained 14 modern roundabouts
- Relamped six (6) signalized intersections
- Maintained seven (7) traffic operation cameras
- Maintained five (5) closed loop systems ($21,600)
- Collected over 130 ADT traffic counts
- Managed countywide pavement marking retrace contract
- Performed seven (7) speed studies
- Reviewed 13 Traffic Impact Studies (TIS)
- Managed three (3) Interchange Modification Studies (IMS)
- Received 1,734 OUPS tickets and marked 330 locations

The Sign Office in conjunction with the Traffic Office executed the following in 2019:

- Maintained 7,500 traffic control signs
- Produced drawings, set up, and maintained all road closures and detours
- Managed signage and traffic control for all BCEO projects
- Supplied signs for other Butler County agencies as requested
- Operated sweeper truck for BCEO and Storm Water District needs
ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

2019 INCOME

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE

- Gasoline Tax: $2,939,200
- Motor Vehicle License Fees: $7,059,126
- Permissive Tax-State Levy: $1,004,681
- Other Government Reimbursements: $3,330,207
- LPA Reimbursements: $466,985
- Interest Earned: $257,143
- Total: $15,057,341

OTHER GOVERNMENT REIMBURSEMENTS

- Gasoline Tax: $155,156
- Fines: $266,572
- OTHER:
  - Reimbursements: $128,568
  - Inspection Fees & Permits: $70,104
  - Project Management: $0
  - Permissive Tax - County: $2,785,858
  - Surity Bond / Subdivision Foreclosures: $0
  - Special Hauling Application Fee: $195,069
  - Total: $3,701,326

INTRAGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE

- Sales: $155,156
- Fines: $266,572
- OTHER:
  - Reimbursements: $128,568
  - Inspection Fees & Permits: $70,104
  - Project Management: $0
  - Permissive Tax - County: $2,785,858
  - Surity Bond / Subdivision Foreclosures: $0
  - Special Hauling Application Fee: $195,069
  - Total: $3,701,326

TOTAL REVENUE

- Intergovernmental Revenue: $15,057,341
- Intragovernmental Revenue: $3,701,326
- Total: $18,758,667
- Carryover from 2018: $15,655,245
- Total funds available: $34,413,912

Carrollover

45.5%

LPA Reimbursements

Motor Vehicle License Fees

1.3%

20.5%

2019 Income

2019 INCOME

Carrollover

45.5%

LPA Reimbursements

Motor Vehicle License Fees

1.3%

20.5%
2019 EXPENDITURES

Capital Improvements $7,650,761  
Road & Bridge Maintenance $2,347,609  
Design & Engineering $1,516,599  
Administrative $271,947  
Debt Retirement (Principal & Interest) $124,288  
Salaries $4,602,332  
Benefits $1,712,446  
Total $18,225,981  
Carryover to 2020 $16,887,931