MORRIS COUNTY
2023 OPERATING BUDGET

Board of County Commissioners

John Krickus, Director

Christine Myers, Deputy Director*

Douglas R. Cabana

Thomas J. Mastrangelo

Tayfun Selen

Stephen H. Shaw*

Deborah Smith*

Introduction - February 22, 2023

*2023 County Commissioners' Budget Committee members

2023 Budget at a Glance

- 4th Year of No County Tax Rate Increase
- Ratable base grew by 5.6%
- The budget is structurally balanced and cap compliant

	2022	2023
Introduced Budget	$331.1M	$343.5M
Tax Rate Increase	0.0%	0.0%
Strong Ratable Growth	$101.0B	$106.7B
County Tax Rate	$0.250	$0.250

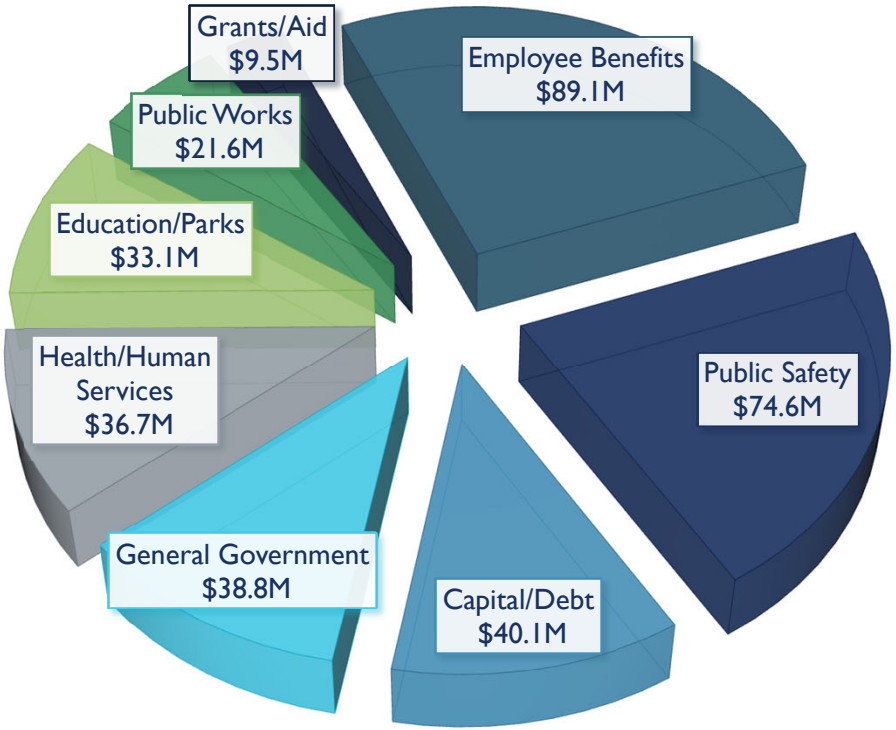
Strong Fund Balance is key to achieving a AAA bond rating

- Morris County has been rated AAA from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's for **47 years**
- At $60.7M, Year End Fund Balance is $2.8M greater than 2021

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beginning Year Fund Balance	$53.4M	$53.5M	$56.2M	$57.9M	$60.7M
Portion Used to Off-Set Tax Levy	$25.3M	$27.1M	$28.2M	$28.2M	$30.2M
Fund Balance Regenerated	$25.4M	$29.8M	$29.9M	$31.0M	$30.2M*
Ending Year Fund Balance	$53.5M	$56.2M	$57.9M	$60.7M	$60.7M*

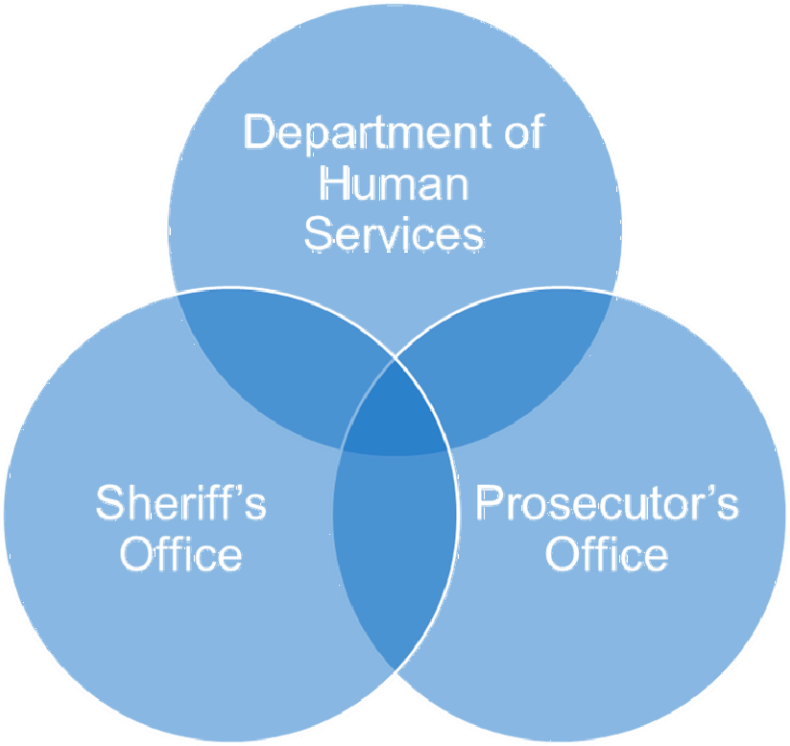
*The 2023 Regenerated and Year End Fund Balance are estimated figures.

Investments in the safety of our residents are a priority and have grown over the last decade



Budget Area	Percent of Budget
Employee Benefits	26.0%
Public Safety	21.7%
Capital/Debt	11.7%
General Government	11.3%
Health/Human Services	10.7%
Education/Parks	9.6%
Public Works	6.3%
Grants/Aid	2.7%

Both Internal and Nonprofit partnerships drive success of critical programs



- HOPE ONE Mobile Unit
- Navigating HOPE
- HOPE Wing
- HOPE Hub
- STAR (Successful Transition and Re-entry Program)
- Mental Health Diversion Program
- Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative

Morris County continues to invest in Public Safety initiatives to bolster our municipalities

Funding once again allocated to absorb the 2023 municipal 911 emergency dispatch cost increases. Services are currently provided to address the following needs:

- Full dispatch services - 23 municipalities
- Medical pre-arrival directives - 2 municipalities
- 911 only, and Medical Pre-Arrival Directives - 4 municipalities
- EMS/FIRE Dispatch - 8 Fire Districts/Municipalities
- Countywide Interoperable Radio System for all municipalities
- Countywide Law Enforcement Records Management System - 29 Municipalities

Funding continues for the County's Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Unit, which responded to over 3,866 Emergency calls in 2022. The service provides daily back-up services to local BLS/EMS for all Morris County Municipalities.

Education Opportunities are endless in Morris County and the highest rated

Support for **County College of Morris** is up $225,000.

- CCM has a $484 million economic impact on Morris County.
- The college has the highest graduation rates of all NJ county colleges and has been #1 in alumni salaries in NJ for the past five years.

For the 2nd year in a row, allocation for the **Morris County Vocational School District** is up $75,000.

- These planned increases to the District's operating expenses are paving the way for the new Career Technical Center that will be constructed on the campus of CCM.
  - Project will accommodate 500 new students.
  - Training in health care, information technology, manufacturing, and supply chain will ensure a clear and lucrative career path for those who enroll.
- A blue ribbon school, and US News/Newsweek top-performing high school in the country.

Career Technical Center rendering

The County recognizes that Economic Development and Tourism are essential to our success

- More than $800,000 will be directed this year to **Economic Development** and **Tourism**, both of which offices are now merged under the Morris County Chamber umbrella to achieve greater impact.
- Funds will also be provided to Morris Arts and the Morris County Historical Society.

Our county parks are a draw for residents and visitors alike. The Park Commission stewards the largest county park system in New Jersey. The 2023 budget includes almost $8.9M for the Park Commission.

- 20,455 acres of parkland
- 38 facilities: historic sites (1 National Landmark & 6 National & State Register Historic Sites), golf courses, outdoor educational and recreational facilities, arboreta, conservation areas, 250 miles of trails, and ice skating arena
- More than 4.8 million visitors each year
- Award-winning programs, special events, and activities for all ages

The Preservation Trust Fund has protected and enhanced Morris County for more than 30 years

The tax will stay level for 2023, at 5/8 cent per $100 of total county equalized property valuation. The Preservation Trust Fund Tax pays not only for improvements to our county parks, but also for these outstanding grant programs:

- Farmland Preservation
- Open Space Preservation
- Historic Preservation
- Flood Mitigation
- Trail Design and Construction

Peck School

At the core of county government, we invest heavily in our infrastructure

Major Components of the 2023 Capital Plan:

- A Courthouse Annex
- Roads
- Intersections
- Bridges
- Railroads
- Educational Facilities
- Public Safety
- Human Services

Navigating Hope vehicle

Berkshire Valley Road, Jefferson

Responsible investment and strategic use of grant funds to reduce future borrowing needs

Description	Dollars
2023 Full Capital Plan	$124,294,906
Less Grants	-$10,282,180
Net 2023 Capital Plan	**$114,012,726**
Less Legacy Courthouse Project	-$85,000,000
Net 2023 Capital Plan of Traditional Projects	**$29,012,726**

Morris County is permitted to use **American Rescue Plan** grant funds for county investments at a level reflective of revenues lost during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This strategic investment, covering capital expenses previously planned for 2023, 2024, and 2025, **will reduce future borrowing needs**.

American Rescue Plan Funds are being invested in key areas in a way that can be sustained after the grant

- **Public Health & Safety**
- **Human Services**
- **Park Facilities**
- **Veterans**
- **Small Businesses and Nonprofits**

Moving Wall in Randolph, July 2022

Big Red Santa Workshop

Costs up, but no increase in the tax rate thanks to prudent fiscal management and a growing ratable base

- Budget increases driven by non-discretionary expenses:
  - Health Insurance costs up $5.8M
  - Pension costs up $2.4M
- However, thoughtful, mission-driven investments continue:
  - Human Service and Public Safety needs prioritized
  - Education and training for all ages a focus
  - County infrastructure maintained - deferred maintenance costs avoided
- **NO tax rate increase for the 4th straight year.**
- Budget is structurally stable and sustainable, anticipating the challenges of future years.