



# Lehigh County

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2020 Budget Presentation

# *2020 Budgetary Objectives*

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- This 2020 budget is **fiscally responsible** and adheres to the Five-Year Fiscal Strategic Plan.
- It maintains our stabilization fund at \$25 Million
- It **prioritizes** the protection and security **of the most vulnerable among us.**
- It makes a **significant investment** in our **infrastructure** and ensures a **balanced budget.**

# *Cooperation and Collaboration*

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- **This administration** has made every effort to be **transparent, accessible and open** with the Board of Commissioners.
- We've **invited them** to the budget process.
- We've worked to **remove politics** from the **budget process**.

# *Cooperation and Collaboration*

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- We've utilized the **Five-Year Plan** requested by the board, and **developed by our Chief Financial Officer**.
- We've provided **early audit results** and shared **healthcare reports** with the board.
- We've agreed that any **budget surplus** would be placed in the capital fund.

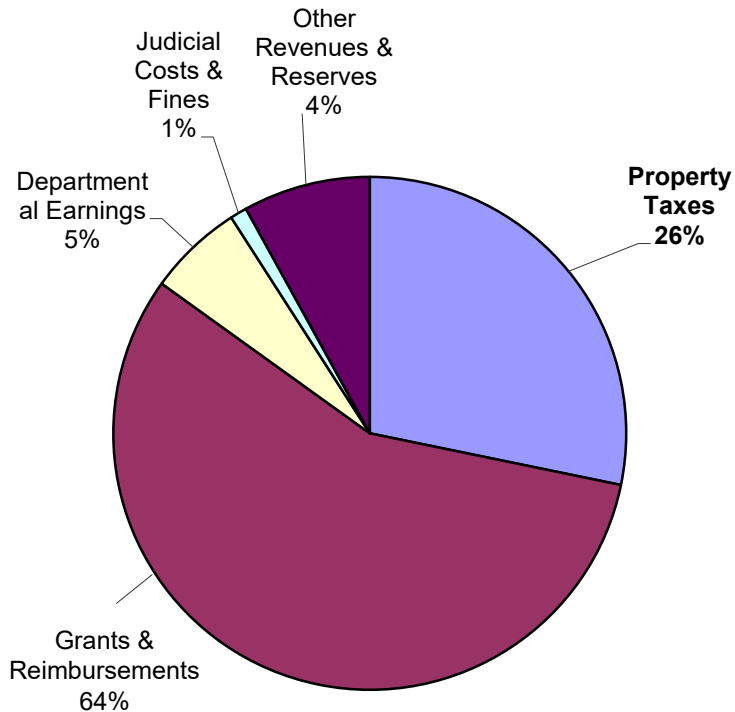
# *Ensuring a Balanced Budget*

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- **My administration** made **\$638,000** in cuts prior to this presentation.
- This required making tough decisions, but necessary decisions. We can't always have everything we want in a budget.
- This **balanced budget** is crucial to **maintaining vital social services and public safety**.

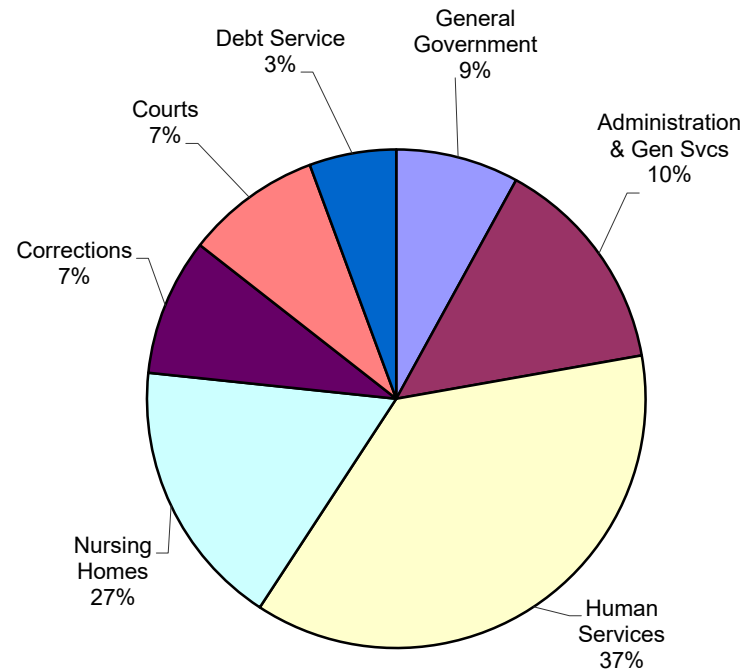
# Lehigh County 2020 Tax Breakdown

**2020 Proposed Budget Revenues**



**Total Revenues: \$514,681,600**

**2020 Proposed Budget Expenditures**



**Total Expenditures: \$514,681,600**

# *What does my Lehigh County Property Tax Pay For?*

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- **Law & Order:** Courts, Jail, District Attorney, Sheriff, Public Defender, Coroner
- **Cedarbrook Senior Care and Rehabilitation**
- **General Services:** County owned bridges, Parks, Trails, Velodrome and Historic Sites, Coca-Cola Park, Trexler Nature Preserve, Emergency Management, Farmland Preservation Program

# *What Does my Lehigh County Property Tax Pay For?*

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- **Salaries, Benefits and Pension Plan**
- **Administration:** Assessment, Fiscal, Lehigh County Veteran's Affairs, Human Resources & Voter Registration/Election Process
- **Judicial Records**
- **Controller's Office**



# Lehigh County Proposed 2019 Taxes in Context

	County	Cents / \$1				
	<u>Taxes in</u>					
	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Co. Taxes</u>				
				Debt Service	15,008,377	0.1343
				Quality of Life		
Law & Order				Voter's Registration	1,482,328	0.0133
				Parks & Trails	1,258,583	0.0113
Corrections	27,723,970	0.2482		LANTA / Joint Planning	1,222,830	0.0109
				AG Extension	300,112	0.0027
Courts	26,999,115	0.2417		Conservation / AG Land	304,406	0.0027
				Community & Economic		
District Attorney	7,568,235	0.0677		Dev.	890,891	0.0080
				Coca Cola Park	97,001	0.0009
Sheriff	6,287,818	0.0563		Veterans Affairs	413,498	0.0037
					5,969,649	0.0535
Public Defender	2,902,169	0.0260				
				Human Services	5,359,873	0.0480
Coroner	2,651,617	0.0237				
Emergency				Capital Projects	1,294,852	0.0116
Management	2,492,309	0.0223				
	76,625,233	0.6859		Nursing Homes	1,500,854	0.0134
Other Elected Officials				All Other Functions	4,317,033	0.0386
Controller	839,091	0.0075		Subtotal	111,716,038	1.0000
Commissioners	544,427	0.0049		Stabilization Fund	1,170,001	
County Executive	256,649	0.0023				
	1,640,167	0.0147		Totals	112,886,039	1.0000

# *Farmland Preservation*

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- The 2020 Budget demonstrates a continued **Commitment to farmland preservation** in Lehigh County:  
**\$3 Million**

## *Cedarbrook: Investing in the Care of Our Seniors*

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- New E wing at Cedarbrook, South Whitehall Township: **\$46.7 Million Dollars**
- D Wing replace HVAC System: **\$ 800,000 Dollars**

## *Courthouses: Investing in Security and Preservation*

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- Security Upgrades:  
**\$1.3 Million Dollars**
- Renovations to the Historic  
courthouse:  
**\$ 9.6 Million Dollars**

# *VELODROME*

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- **Track Resurfacing:  
\$420,000**

# *2020 Healthcare Highlights*

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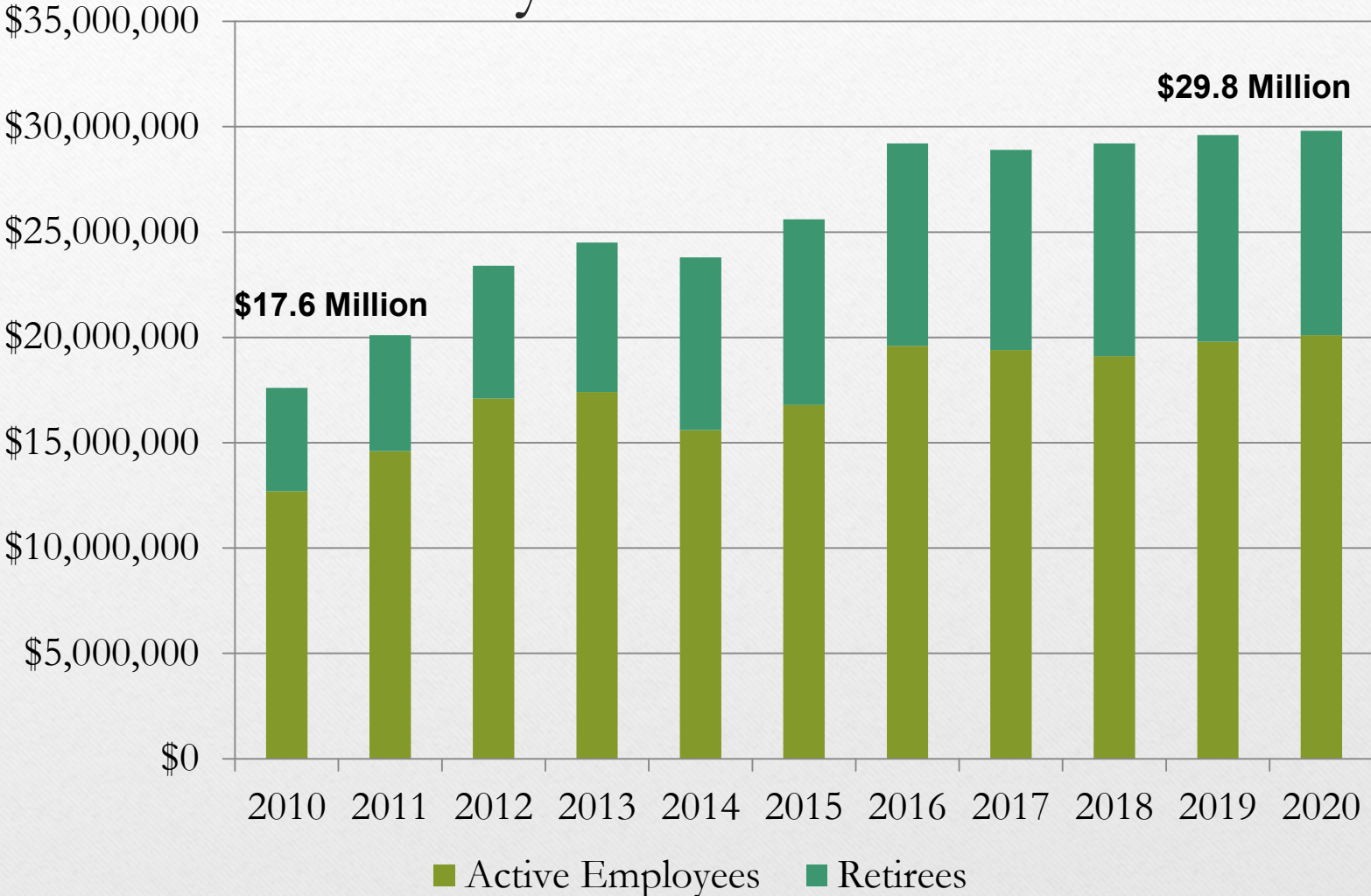
- 2020 Healthcare Budget reflects a Medical Savings of **\$1.5 Million** by updates to our Prescription Plan.

County Active employee annual cost:	<b>\$ 20.2 Million</b>
County Retirees annual cost:	<b>\$ 9.6 Million</b>
County annual employee contribution:	<b>\$ 5 Million</b>
<b><u>2020 Total Medical</u></b>	<b><u>\$34.7 Million</u></b>

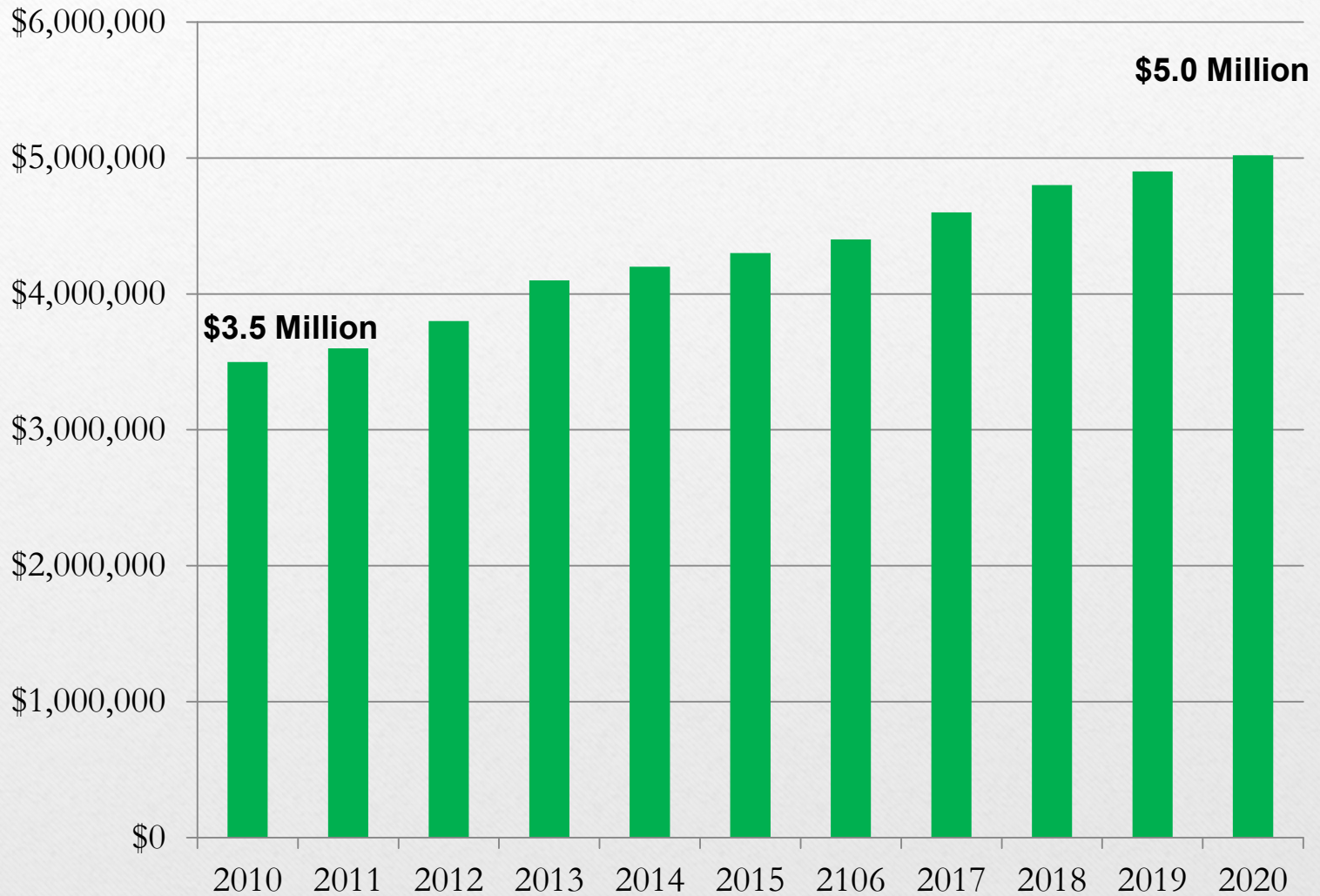
\* Only County Retirees start day before January 1, 1987

\* The 2020 employee contribution will not change.

# County Paid Healthcare



# Employee Healthcare Payroll Deductions



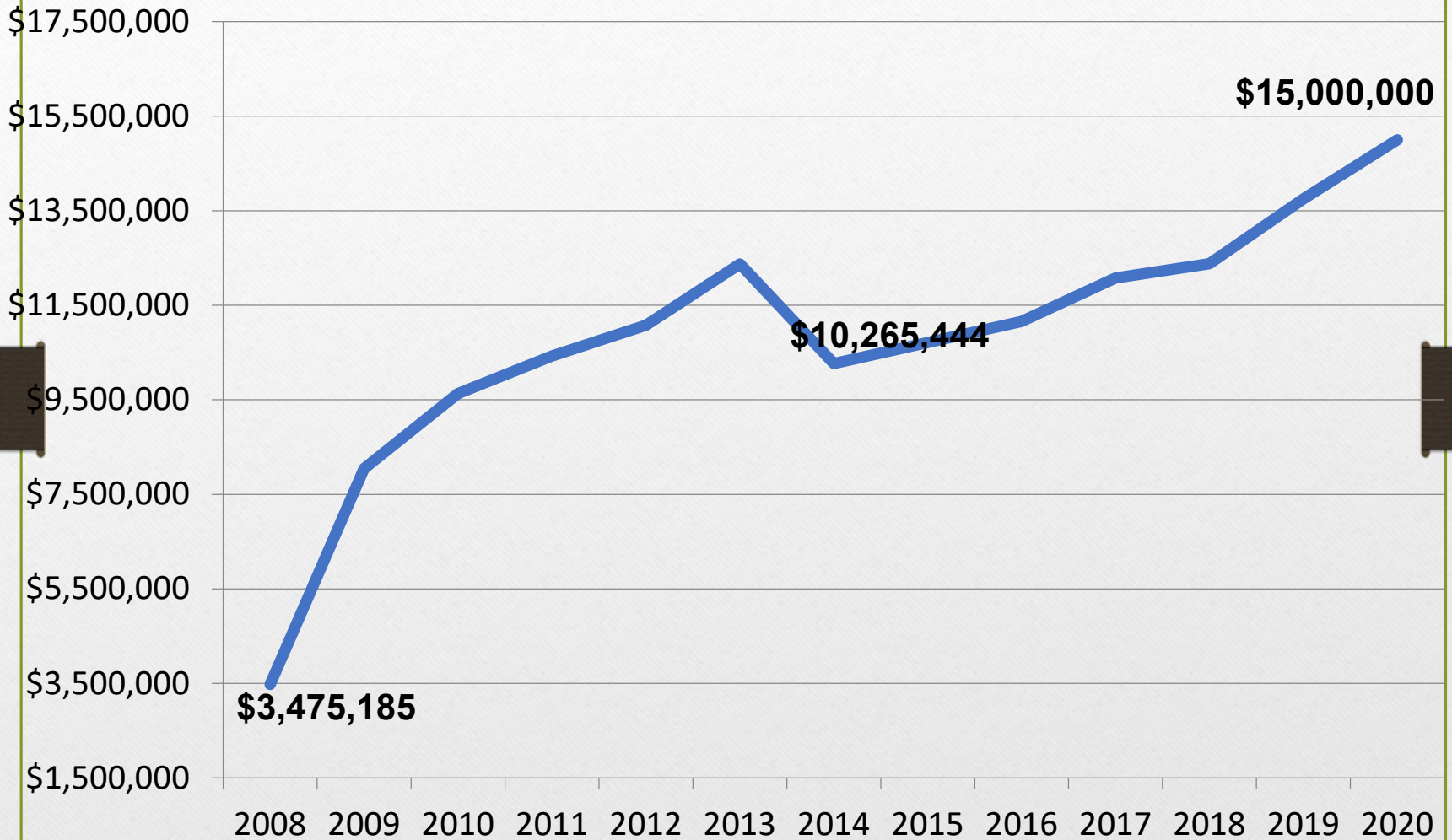


# *Pension Plan*

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- 2020 Budget contributes **\$15** million to Employee Retirement Plan.
- The plan is **86.5%** funded
- The plan has over **\$500 Million Dollars** in assets

# County Pension Fund Contribution (86.5% Funded)



# *Law & Order New Positions*

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- 2 Sheriff Deputies: PFA Firearms legislation
- 1 Detective: RIIC Gang Investigations
- 1 Social Worker: Public Defenders Office
- 1 Translator: Information Referral
- 1 ID Program Specialist

# *2020 Budget Highlights*

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- Total County Budget: **\$ 514.6 Million**
- Total County Tax Dollars: **\$ 115 Million**
- County Millage Rate **3.84 Mills**

# *2020 Budget Highlights*

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- Based on the median Lehigh County Property assessed at \$201,000 the proposed 2020 Lehigh County Property Tax at 3.84 Mills would be \$771.84 per year.

# *County Taxes Comparison*

County	Median Home Value	Median HH Income	County Millage Rate	County Property Tax	Tax % of HH Income
Lehigh	\$201,000	\$60,871	3.84	\$771.84	1.26%
Northampton	\$210,900	\$66,066	5.9	\$1244.31	1.88%
Berks	\$175,200	\$55,798	7.65670	\$1,341.45	2.40%

# Historical Millage Rates

2013: 3.79 County Reassessment Adjusted Rate Adjustment

2014: 3.79

2015: 3.75

2016: 3.68

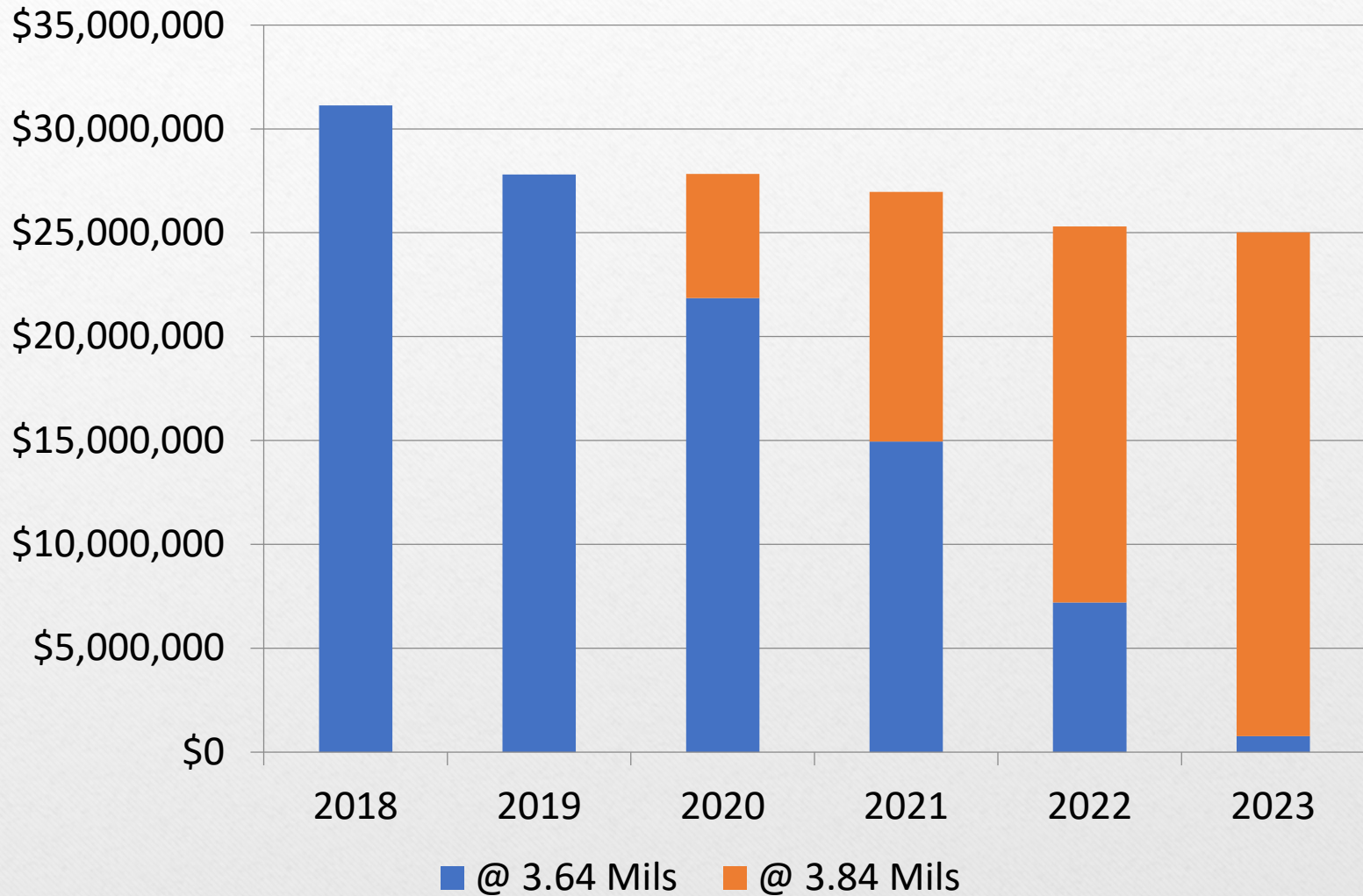
2017: 3.64

2018: 3.64

2019: 3.64

2020: 3.84

## County – Ending Fund Balance





# Why This Budget is Critical?

- This ensures we stay within Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) standards.
- It **prevents further cuts** that would **undermine** our ability to provide services, promote public safety and **serve the people**.
- It ensures our bond rating remains stable, **saving taxpayers** money in the **long-run**.
- It **protects Lehigh County taxpayers** from a more **painful and severe tax increase**.
- It keeps the stabilization fund at \$25 million through 2023.

# Q & A Session

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- Copies of press release have been distributed.
- County Executive will now take any budget related questions.