The review and adoption of the annual budget is one of the most important policy-making responsibilities of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). At the November 22, 2022 workshop, the BCC agreed to continue with their previously approved six strategic priorities. The priorities are: Economic Development, Environmental Protection, Housing and Homelessness, Infrastructure, Public Safety, and Substance Use and Behavioral Disorders. This budget reflects the BCC’s commitment of continuing to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County.

Increase in Licenses, Permits, Other Taxes & Miscellaneous Revenue is primarily due to the anticipated increase of interest income as a result of higher interest rates. The increase in Intergovernmental Revenues is primarily related to grant funding for the C-51 Reservoir projects. Increase in Fund balance is related to future planning within the General Fund and the carryforward of funding for previously budgeted capital projects.

Significant changes in expenditures include an increase in General Government primarily related to funding for Roger Dean Stadium and C-51 Reservoir projects. The increase in Economic Environment is primarily due to grant funding for housing projects and support for the County’s Housing Initiative Program. The increase in Reserves is primarily related to new and carryforward funding for capital projects.
The BCC approved a budget with a property tax rate of 4.5000 per $1,000 of taxable value, which is 0.2920 above the calculated rollback rate. Florida Statutes limit the countywide millage rate to a maximum of 10 mills, excluding voter approved debt service millage rates.

For the FY 2024 budget, County departments were directed to submit budgets with service levels status quo with additional requests only for critical needs. The Sheriff’s budget is funded at $902.0 million. The Sheriff submitted a request for a carry forward of funds totaling $25.0 million for computer equipment and software, fleet vehicles including equipment, radios and electronic equipment, furniture, public safety equipment, and training equipment.

The budget includes $132.3 million in Ad Valorem funded capital projects. This reflects $38.2 million for Fire Rescue, $32.4 million for repair and renovation of County buildings, $25.5 million for Parks & Recreation, $17.5 million for Information Technology Systems, $8.1 million for roadway improvement, $9.5 million for County Library, $1.0 million for other miscellaneous projects, and $0.3 million for environmental restoration. In addition to Ad Valorem funding, capital projects are funded by infrastructure surtax, impact fees, bonds, and other funding sources. Department of Airports and Water Utilities Department capital projects are funded by enterprise revenues.

A total of 12,367 positions are included in the FY 2024 budget: BCC 7,045; Sheriff 4,464; Tax Collector 350; Property Appraiser 233; Clerk & Comptroller 150; Supervisor of Elections 83; and Judicial 42.