

BUDGET TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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Honorable Members of the City Council
18 East 22nd Street
Kearney, NE 68847

RE: 2020-2021 City of Kearney Budget

Dear Honorable Members of the Kearney City Council:

Pursuant to the Nebraska Budget Act, Administration is pleased to transmit to you the 2020-2021 Annual Operating Budget and Program of Services for the City of Kearney.

The purpose of the Annual Operating Budget and Program of Services document is to present to the public and the City Council a comprehensive picture of proposed operations for the budget year expressed in both verbal and statistical terms for services to meet the human and physical needs of the citizens of Kearney. The budget is intended to accomplish two things: (1) to provide Administration with the opportunity to present its recommendations for the levels of services and methods of financing of services in the coming year; (2) to provide the most effective control possible by the City Council over the expenditure of public funds. It also provides Administration with the opportunity to point out various needs within the City's services. The City Council has the opportunity to judge the adequacy of the recommended programs and to set the level of City services. The City Council must also weigh the desirability of the services proposed against the burden of taxes required to finance the programs.

The budget document is the single most important report presented to the City Council during the year. Although it is primarily intended for City Council policy determination, it also serves as an aid to the citizens in providing a better understanding of the City's operating fiscal programs. The budget has been built on conservative financial principals that reflect staff commitment to maintaining necessary services, improving the quality of the operation of the City, and keeping expenditures and taxpayer load to a minimum.

The 2020-2021 fiscal year promises to be a year of challenge as the City of Kearney continually strives to improve service delivery. Therefore, this Annual Operating Budget and Program of Services document is once again the result of a careful and objective evaluation of every facet of the City of Kearney organization. The supreme effort to enhance service delivery in the most efficient manner has been the passion of each person involved in the budget process. This budget seeks to continue an emphasis on fulfilling the goals of the Council and the citizens of Kearney, while striving to keep property taxes as reasonable as possible.