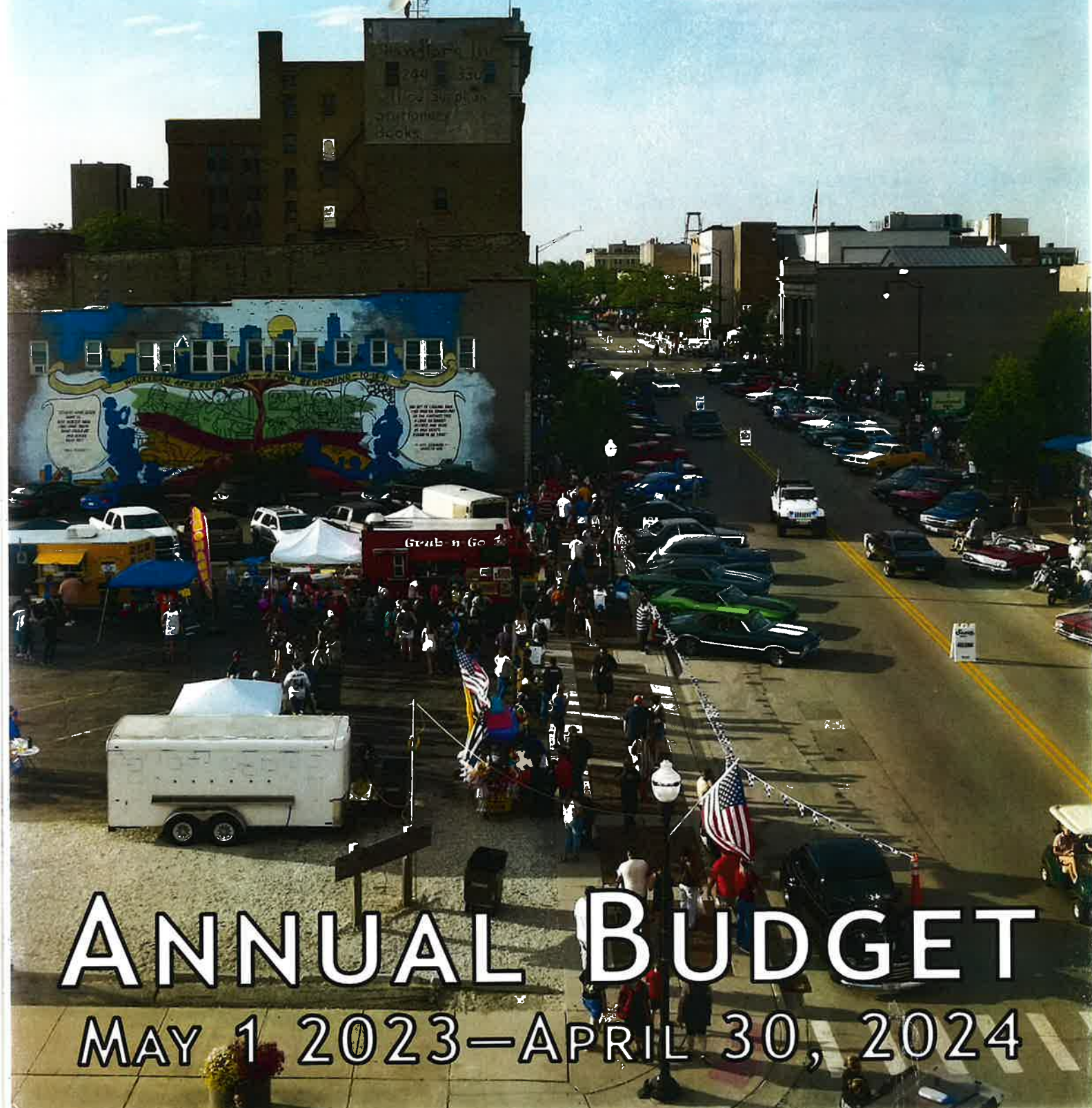


# WAUKEGAN

City of Progress *Illinois*



**ANNUAL BUDGET**  
MAY 1 2023—APRIL 30, 2024

**CITY OF WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS  
ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
BEGINNING MAY 1, 2023**

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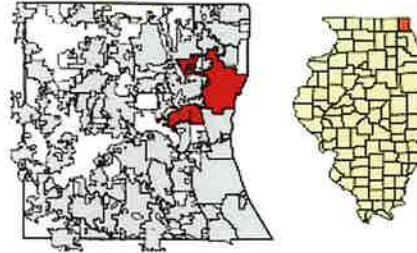
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March 1, 2023

Members of the City Council  
Citizens of Waukegan



It is an honor to serve as Mayor of our great City. Every day I marvel at the resiliency of our people to make Waukegan a place they call home. I see the pride of our residents as I travel through our neighborhoods and witness first-hand the hard work of families caring for their homes and property, in the schools as I visit with the children and delight in their dreams of a bright future, and I see it practiced every day by our city employees as they do their best to serve and care for the needs of our residents.

We have weathered the economic challenges brought about by a pandemic that affected each of us in many ways by holding firm to a prudent and responsible financial plan. It is such a plan that enabled us to strengthen our police and fire departments with additional professional public safety professionals with a staff larger and stronger than ever before. It is a plan that created opportunities to replace aging equipment, refurbish our public facilities, and establish long-term improvements to our roads, culverts, bridges, and water and sewer infrastructure while creating the financial means to invest for the future by adhering to responsible reserve policies that will protect us from unpredictable changes in the economy. Sound financial management, coupled with the effective and efficient delivery of services, will make us a stronger and better-prepared community as we further develop our lakefront, business community, neighborhoods, and schools.

As we look forward to a new fiscal year, we do so by following a financially sound and structurally balanced budget. Having completed the prior year in a strong position and with a positive balance, we are on pace to duplicate those efforts in the current fiscal year, and we project to do so again in the new fiscal year. As Mayor, I believe sound, prudent, and responsible financial planning must serve as the fundamental cornerstone of local government. We must be forever mindful of our fiduciary duty to be responsible trustees of the City's resources.

I am excited about the future of our City. We are today witnessing the construction of a \$350 million entertainment complex in the Fountain Square District, the expansion of our commercial districts with new tenets, a luxury apartment complex in the planning stages in the City's northwest quadrant, the beautiful new College of Lake County administrative facility in the City's downtown, and an active and exciting theatre district with entertainment to satisfy young and old alike.

In the new year, you will see first-hand the result of months of engineering studies and preparations as we address repairs to our aging streets, bridges, and water and sewer infrastructures. We will embark upon a massive lead pipe removal project with an initial budget in excess of \$4 million, improvements to the City's reservoirs and raw water pumping station, as well as a continued commitment to pave as many residential streets and repair as many sidewalks as possible in the coming construction season with a budget in excess of \$5 million.

There are tremendous changes taking place in every Ward and in every neighborhood. But some changes do not come easy. It takes the support of the City's elected officials, professional administrators, and staff willing and able to do the necessary work. We have such a team, and we are prepared to make the changes.

The budget measures \$217 million in expenditures and over \$218 million in revenues across all funds and departments of the City. It maintains property taxes at the same level as the previous year and does not rely on new debt or bank financing. Projected revenues and fund reserves on hand will make possible \$30.8 million in capital improvements and \$7 million in replacing aging and fully depreciated vehicles and equipment and refurbishing our public buildings.

We have not stopped addressing the operational needs of our departments. We have included funds to make our beautiful lakefront beach more accessible to our families, children, and seniors with paved pathways and areas to rest and enjoy the outdoors. We will add a beach house with restroom facilities and expand opportunities to play and relax. And, not to ignore the four four-legged inhabitants of the City in search of a new home, we will be adding a new and safer Animal Shelter at City Yards (Public Works) on McAree Road. Again, all this with no tax increase or debt financing.

We have added three additional firefighters to our professional roster, bringing the number of certified firefighter-paramedics to a high of 123. Also joining the ranks of Waukegan public safety personnel will be five new police officers, bringing the staffing level to a high of 163. These are challenging times for our first responders, who risk their lives daily to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe.

With the continued hard work of our committed professionals and staff, and with the support of each and every Alderperson, we will continue to move forward and follow the path that best provides for the economic growth of our City and the financial well-being of our residents.

We are improving efficiencies, controlling costs, and planning for the future. We are a diverse and thriving community. We are proud to be the Seat of Lake County, and I pledge to do my best to make our residents and businesses proud to call Waukegan home.

Sincerely,

Ann B. Taylor

Mayor