

Tax Millage Increase Questions/Comments for Fiscal Year 2025

To help with majority of questions/concerns...

2024 Budgeted Revenues = \$7,335,604

2025 Preliminary Revenues = \$6,656,916

Difference between '24 vs '25 revenues = \$678,688

2024 Budgeted Expenditures = \$7,335,604

2025 Preliminary Expenditures = \$7,424,968

Difference between '24 vs '25 expenditures = \$89,364

#1	Why is a tax millage increase requested? Are there not other revenue sources and what budget cuts have occurred?	The proposed tax millage increase is to replace unrealized revenue from building permits. The majority of other revenue sources were nearly the same from 2024 to preliminary 2025 numbers. The estimated revenue from 2024 building permits = \$750,000. There is no anticipated amount of \$750,000 from building permits in 2025 and the estimated amount is now \$100,000, and that revenue is contingent on external factors such as contractors/builders. Thus far in 2024, there have only been approximately \$300,000 received in building permits so the budget will have to be balanced using money from fund balance (savings account) to make up the shortfall.
#2	Can you explain why there is such a deficit?	See #1
#3	What will the increase be used for?	The increase will be used to help balance the 2025 budget and to fill gaps in revenue shortfall.
#4	What are the specific reasons for such an increase?	See #1 & #3
#5	What are the other revenue sources for the city?	There are 96 line items of revenue in the general fund budget. See separate revenue sheet for more detail
#6	Can the city invest the money coming in and obtain additional revenue this way? The market is doing good right now.	The City has interest accounts but must maintain within certain parameters of regulatory controls of any fund balance / savings account
#7	Will the tax increase be used on the water/sewer issues?	There is no anticipated use of this tax increase for water/sewer. Water and sewer are funded separately
#8	Some people think growth is a bad thing, how can we change this perception?	Not germane to millage rate discussion. This is not in reference to tax rate. We encourage citizens to connect with local civic groups in order to gain traction on ideas and objectives.
#9	Concerns about the city infrastructure and all the growth.	Not germane to millage rate discussion. City of Jasper continues to prepare master plans to address infrastructure issues including water/sewer, streets, parks and more.
#10	Wants an itemized list of expense and what is being done to reduce costs	We can provide a copy of the proposed revenues and expenditures from '24 budget. The 2024 adopted budget is on the City's website.
#11	Request for additional information type meetings	Meetings were held at 10am and 6pm on 9-26-24. A third meeting will be held 10-7-24 at 5:30pm
#12	How much are council members paying for their taxes?	Mayor and Council pay taxes based on the same criteria as other citizens mandated by law.
#13	Why does the taxes have to go up especially with all the new growth coming in, shouldn't this help?	The increase in millage rate is to replace the unrecognized revenue.
#14	There appears to be confusion about growth and that it is the reason existing property owners are being taxed more. This city needs more workforce housing. How can we explain this better or change this perception?	Not germane to millage rate discussion. We encourage citizens to connect with local civic groups in order to gain traction on ideas and objectives. Workforce housing is a needed resource in our community.
#15	Has there been any consideration in increase sales tax as another revenue source that affects everyone and not just property owners?	The sales tax "LOST" is a revenue source that is negotiated between the county and city every 10 years. The current percentage is for another 8 years as we are 2 years into the percentage.
#16	Are there any kind of ideas to raise money for additional income? Are there going to be budget meetings to discuss different ideas?	Local governments are not established to create sources of revenue versus providing services that are paid through taxes, fees, etc.
#17	What are the city's long range plans?	The City has a Comprehensive Plan that provides some level of planning for review. This can also be found on the City's website.
#18	What are other ways of increasing revenue such as a consumption tax? Are there not any other ways to increase revenue without increasing the millage rate?	See #16