BLUE EARTH COUNTY

2016

Budget Information

Welcome

The purpose of this hearing is…

1. To explain the proposed budget and proposed tax levy for 2016.

2. Obtain public feedback on the proposed County budget.

- Market values shown on your Truth In Taxation notice are final and are NOT a subject for the hearing tonight.
- Values for the 2015 assessment (taxes payable in 2016) were discussed and established at the local Boards of Review and the County Board of Equalization held earlier this year.
- The Assessment Cycle:
  - Sales October 2013 through September 2014 to set 2015 market values for taxes payable in 2016

Budget Development Timeline

- **April** County officials begin work on budget
- **Jun-Aug.** Budget work sessions
- **Sept.** Proposed budget announced
  Preliminary Levy set
- **Nov.** Truth-in-Taxation notices mailed
  Budget work session
- **Dec.** Budget hearing
  2016 budget adopted at Dec. 15 Board meeting

Property Tax Statement

- **Levy Authorities**
  - Blue Earth County
  - Cities or Townships
  - School Districts
  - Region Nine Development Commission
  - State of Minnesota
- Proposed property tax statements include taxable market value for taxes payable in 2015 and 2016. They also show tax dollars paid in 2015 and an **estimate** of tax dollars payable in 2016.

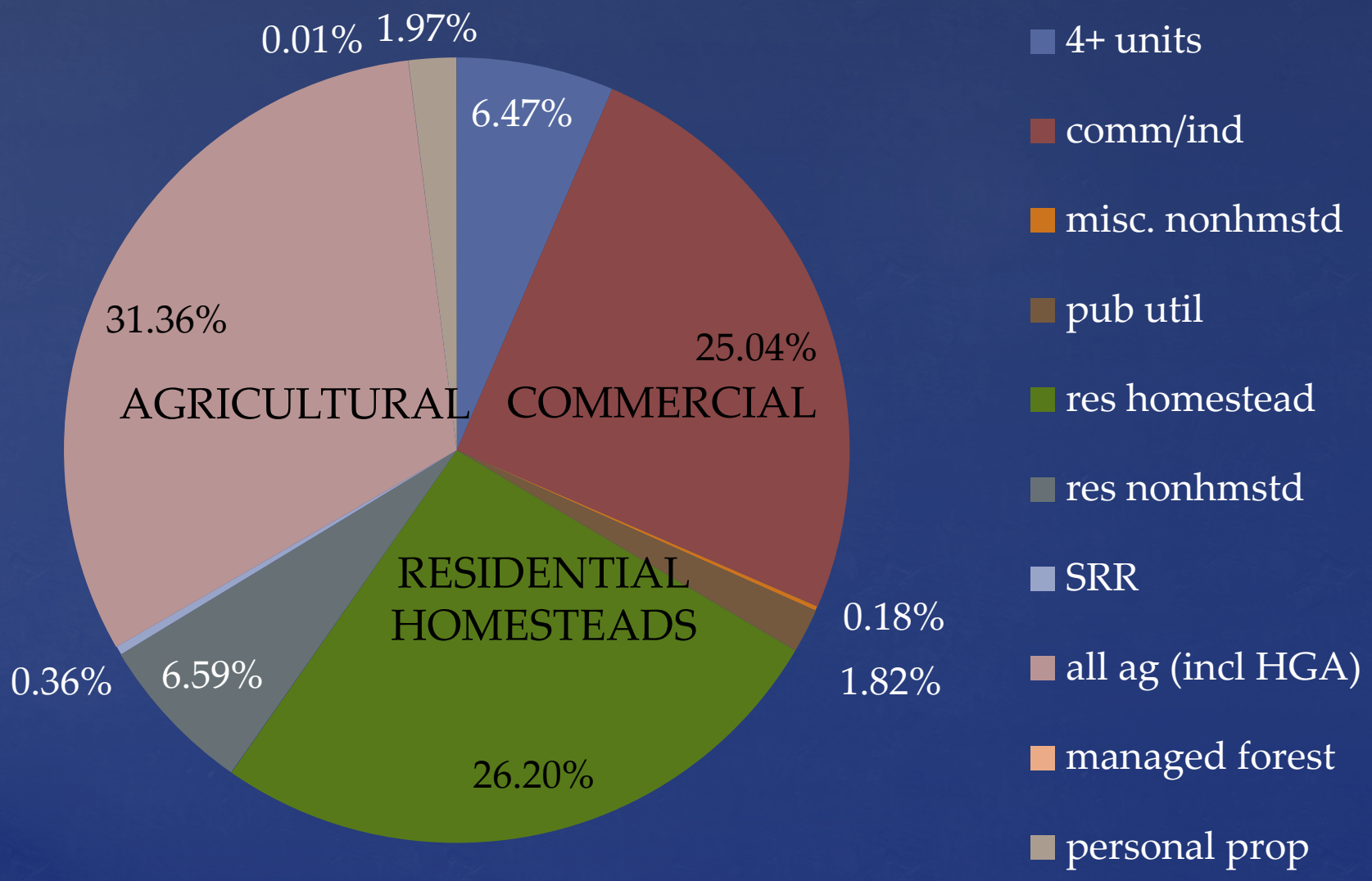
Budget "Fast Facts"

- A significant portion of the County's budget is used to provide programs and services mandated by the state or federal governments.

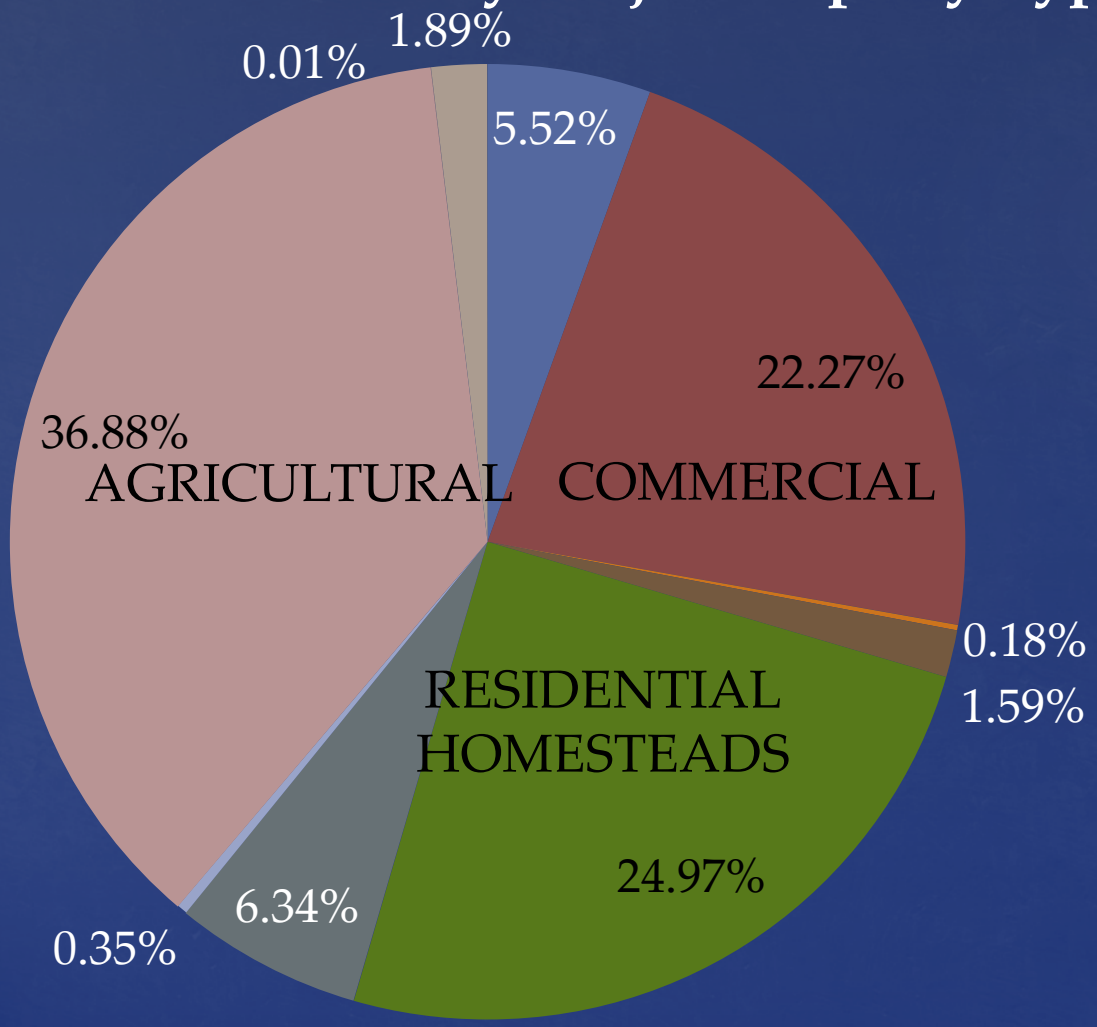
- Blue Earth County's 2016 preliminary tax levy was set at a 3.9% increase over 2015.

- Additional budget discussions this fall have resulted in a possible reduction of that increase to 1.9%.

2016 Taxes Payable:
NTC by Major Property Type



2015 Taxes Payable:
NTC by Major Property Type



- 4+ units
- comm/ind
- misc. nonhmstd
- pub util
- res homestead
- res nonhmstd
- SRR
- all ag (incl HGA)
- managed forest
- personal prop

Changes in Assessed Values Impact Tax Statements

- Change between 2015 and 2016 Estimated Market Values *

Residential Homestead	**increased**	**4.50%**	↑
Commercial/Industrial	**increased**	**12.70%**	↑
Apartments	**increased**	**7.60%**	↑
Agricultural	**decreased**	**12.70%**	↓

* Countywide changes

Changes in Assessed Values Impact Tax Statements

- Change between 2015 and 2016 Estimated Market Values *

Residential Homestead	**increased**	**3.50%**	↑
Commercial/Industrial	**increased**	**6.70%**	↑
Apartments	**increased**	**2.60%**	↑
Agricultural	**decreased**	**12.90%**	↓

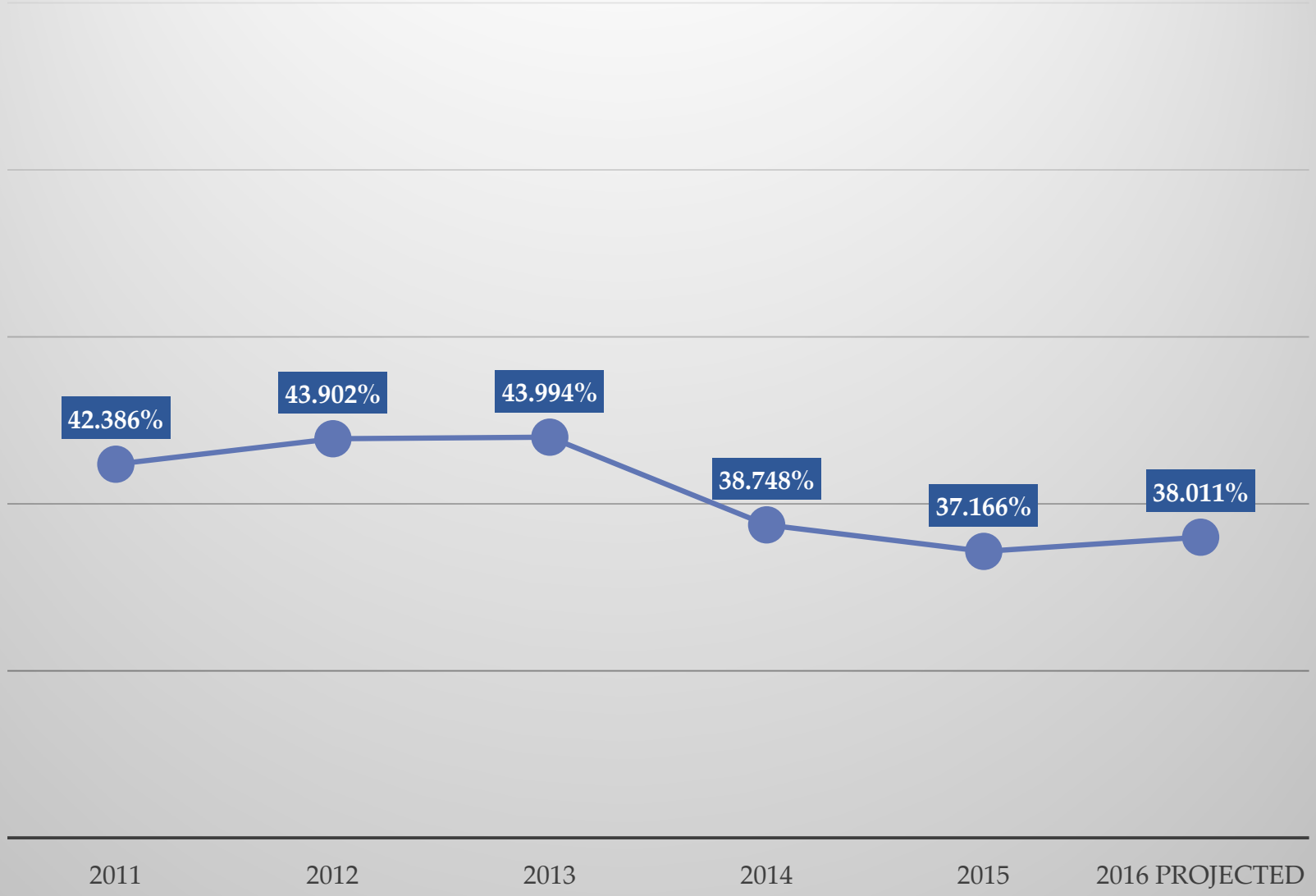
* Countywide changes – excluding new construction amounts

Impact of 3.9% Levy Increase on the County portion of the tax bill

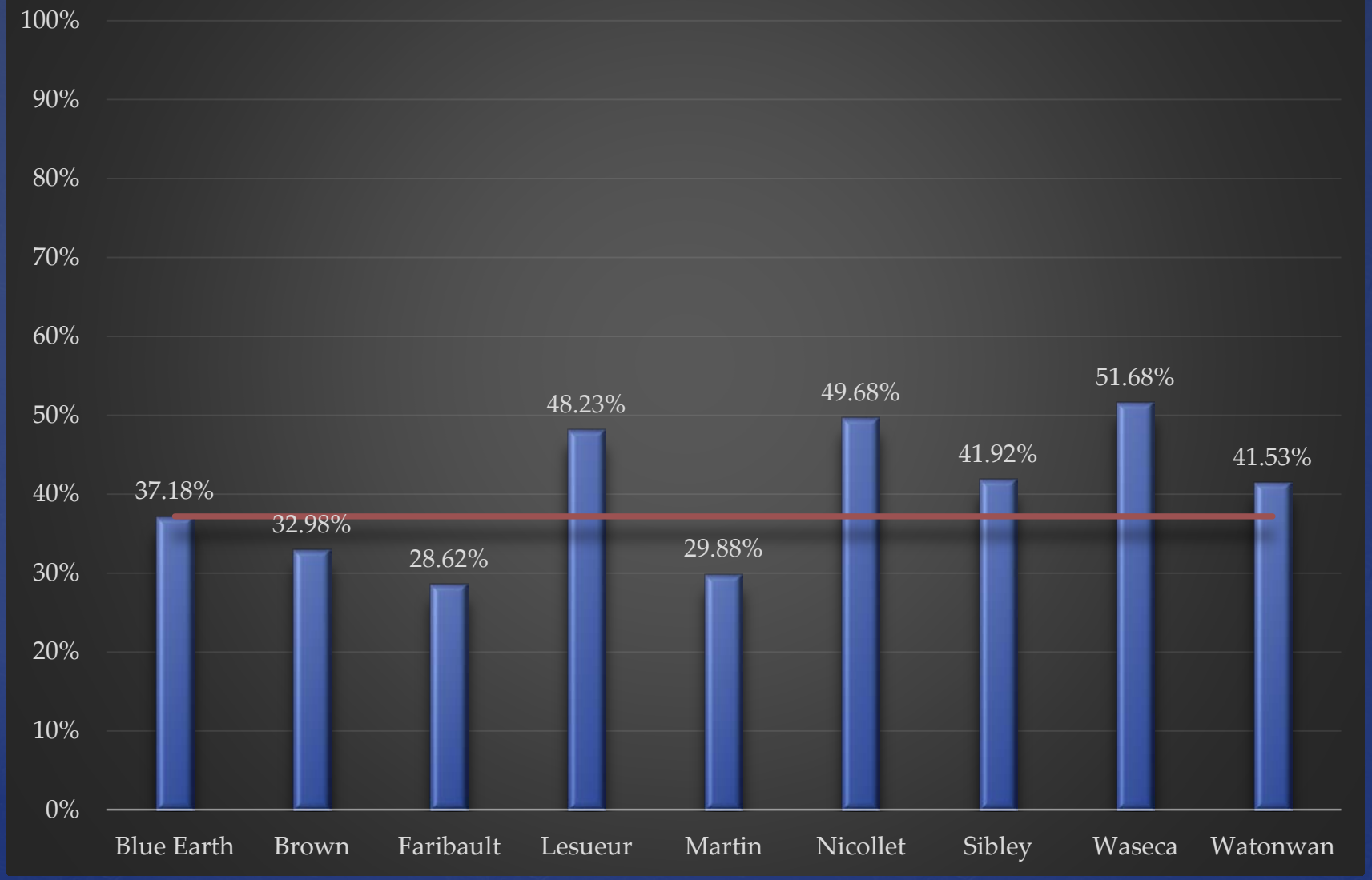
Average impact assuming valuation changes based on market

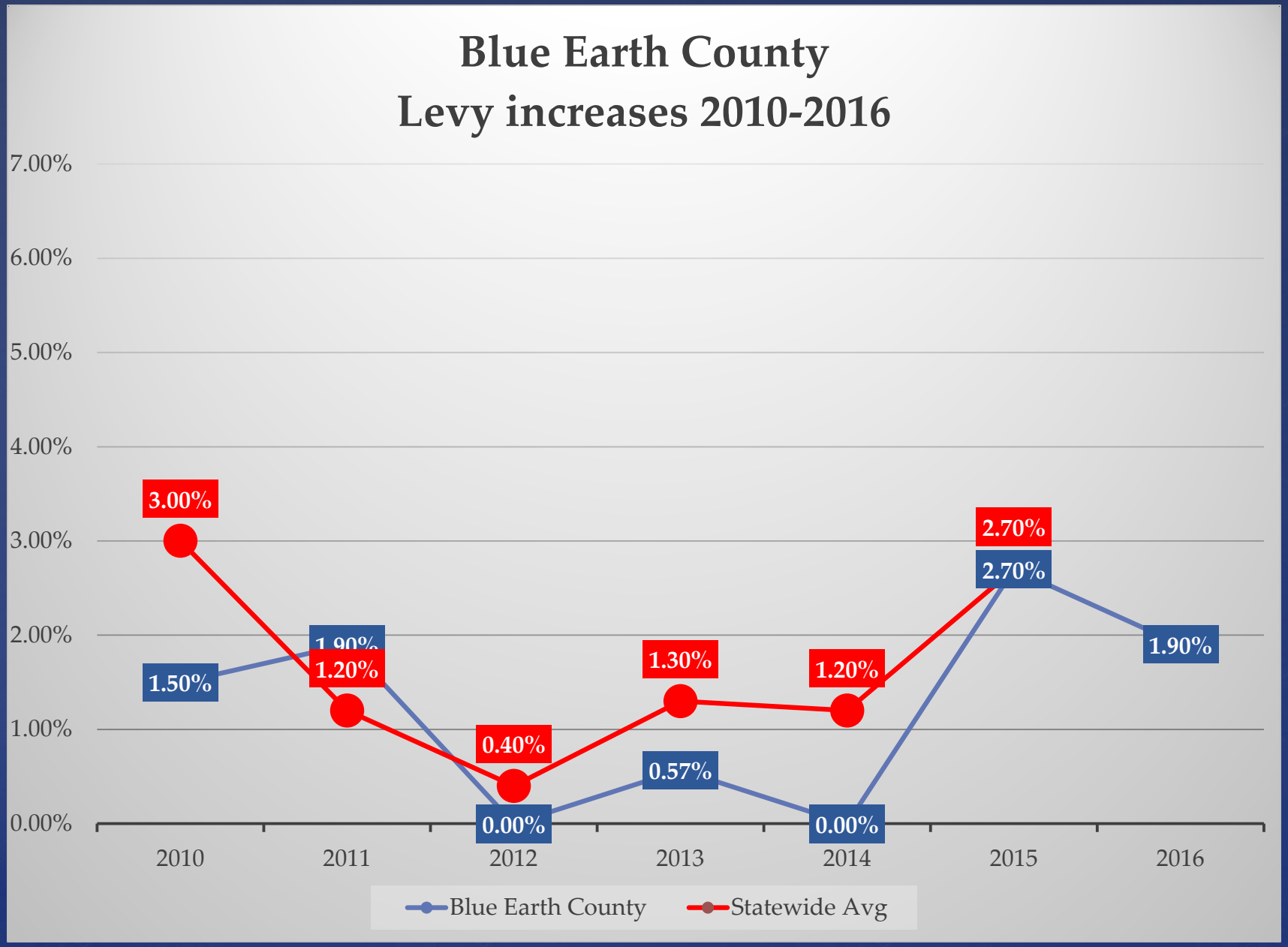
Type of Property	Value Change	Market Value	Annual Cost Change
Residential Homestead / Ag Homestead House, Garage & 1st Acre	3.50% increase	$76,000	$11 Increase
		$170,300	$35 Increase
		$200,000	$45 Increase
		$300,000	$68 Increase
Agricultural Non-Homestead Land	12.90% decrease	$270,000	$124 Decrease
		$615,600	$282 Decrease
		$1,000,000	$457 Decrease
		$2,140,000	$978 Decrease
Commercial/Industrial	6.70% increase	$150,000	$71 Increase
		$300,000	$190 Increase
		$649,300	$412 Increase
		$1,000,000	$645 Increase

Blue Earth County
Tax Rate 2011 - 2016



Blue Earth County
Comparison of County Tax Rates - 2015




Blue Earth County
Levy increases 2010-2016
7.00%
6.00%
5.00%
4.00%
3.00%
2.00%
1.00%
0.00%
3.00%
1.50%
1.90%
1.20%
0.40%
0.00%
1.30%
0.57%
1.20%
0.00%
2.70%
2.70%
1.90%
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
Blue Earth County
Statewide Avg

Blue Earth County
Comparison of Per Capita Levy Rates
(2016 Preliminary Levies)

- Blue Earth County ranked as one of the counties with the lowest 2016 preliminary levy per capita @ $472.17 (ranked 73rd out of 87 counties).

- Lowest per capita preliminary levy = Koochiching County @ $316.44
- Highest per capita preliminary levy = Traverse County @ $1,316.44

Blue Earth County
Comparison of Preliminary Levy Per Capita
(2016 Preliminary Levies)

About Blue Earth County

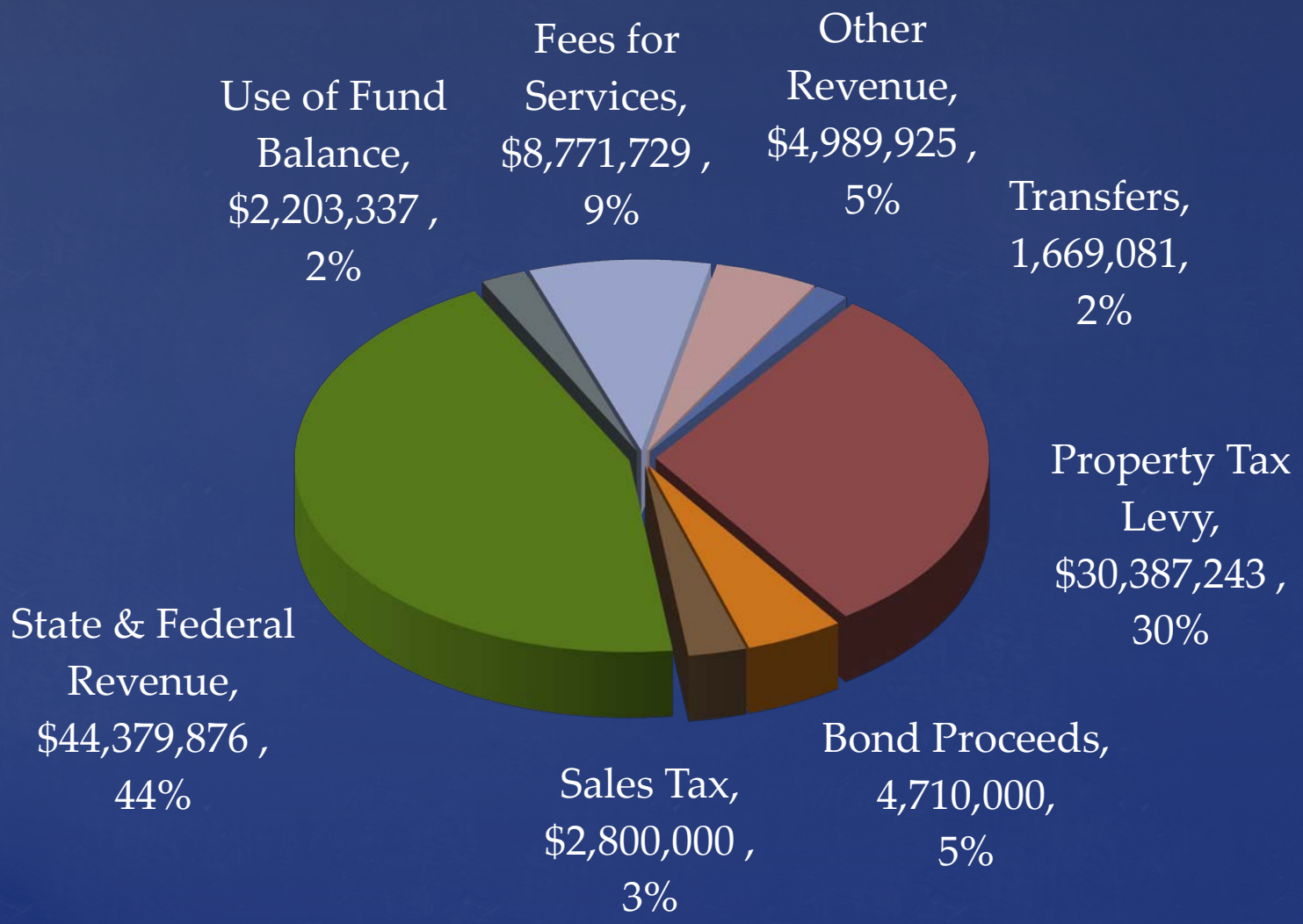
- Mission: To deliver essential services to County residents effectively and efficiently.
- Service Values to the Community:
  - Agility, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Empathy, Equal Access, Ethical Behavior, Respect, Transparency, & Accountability

Priority Areas

- Public safety (including probation, prosecution, jail staffing and dispatch)
- Core human services (including mental health and child protective services)
- Transportation Improvements
- Technology

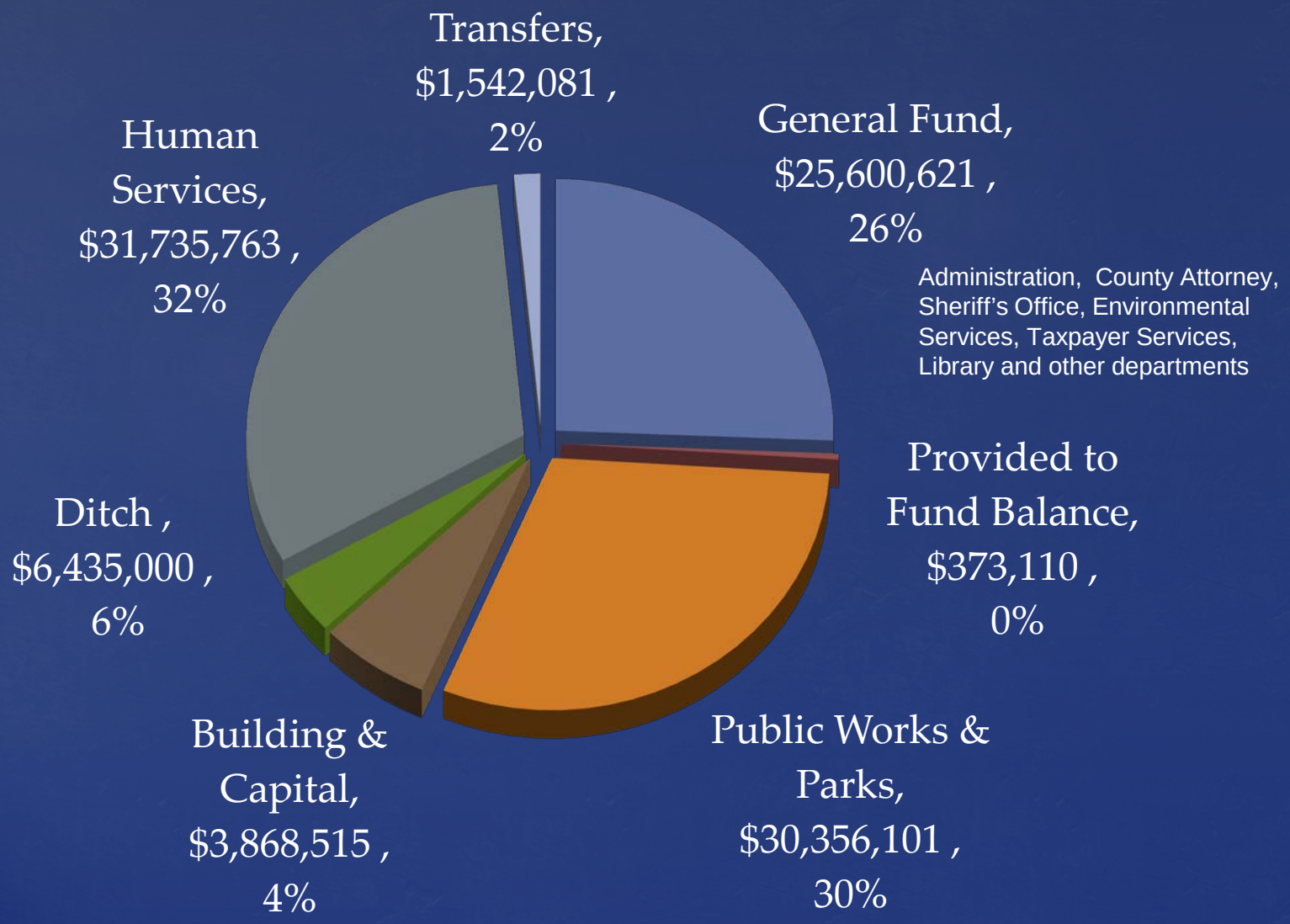
2016 Budget: $99,911,191

Revenue, Transfers In & Other Financing Sources



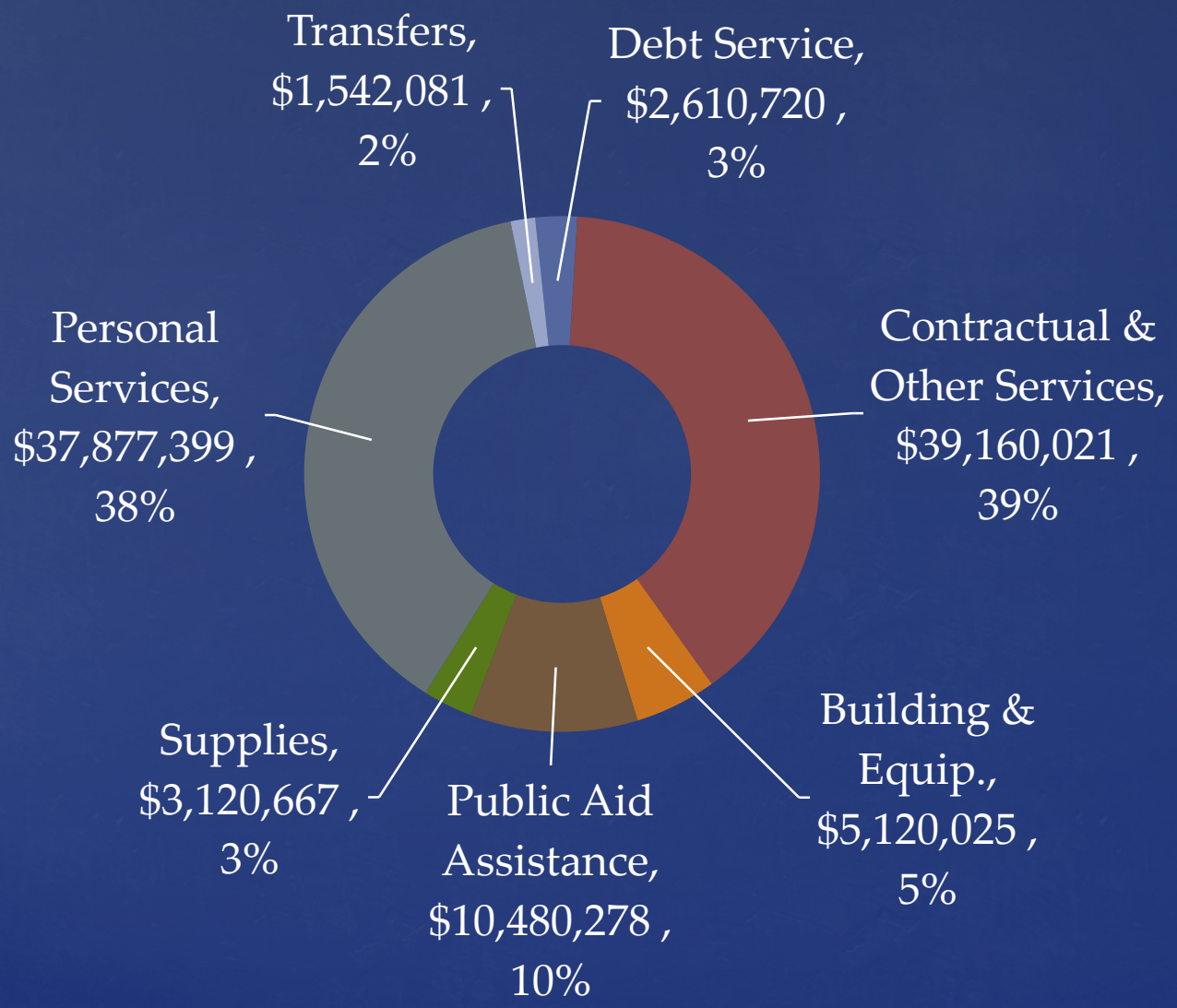
2016 Budget: $99,911,191

Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Financing Uses



2016 Budget: $99,911,191

Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Financing Uses



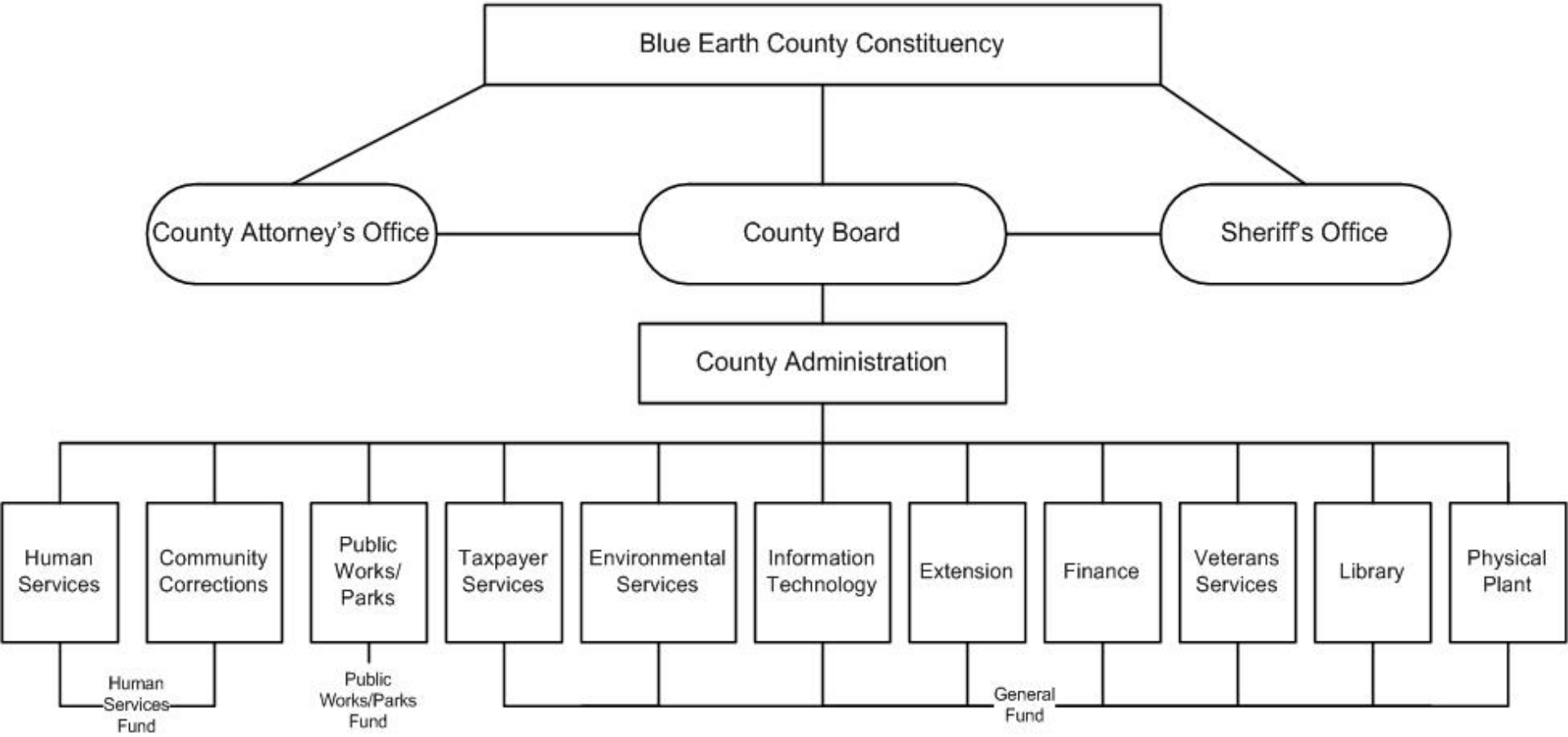
Significant Changes to 2016 Budget

- Funding from a Local Option Sales Tax (1/2%) will be available to the Public Works department to address transportation needs in the County.
- Additional staffing will be added to departments to address service demand (Sheriff, County Attorney, Human Services, Taxpayer Services, Veteran's Services).
- Reconstruction of County Road 1 (Final Phase) – Good Thunder to TH 30.
- Begin reconstruction of former TH 66 from Good Thunder to County Road 9.

Major 2016 Capital Purchase Initiatives

- $250,000 Remodel of Vernon Center road maintenance shop
- $45,000 Good Thunder Salt Shed replacement
- $175,000 Roadgrader
- $200,000 Snowplow
- $250,000 Government Center boiler replacement
- $250,000 Government Center window replacement
- $250,000 Historic Courthouse air conditioner replacement

Blue Earth County Organizational Structure



JA/
12-8-11
Visio/BEC Organizational Structure.VSD

Financial Management Gets Good Grades

- Current credit rating by Moody Investor Service is Aa2.
- "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association each year that it has been eligible.
- Each year that the County has been audited by the State it has received an unqualified opinion, which affirms the County's accuracy.

2015 General Fund Service Examples

- 61,000 tons of solid waste accepted at Ponderosa Landfill
- 50,000 tons of materials recycled
- 118 tons collected at the HHW
  (4,100 households served)
- 150 building permits processed
  (31 for new homes, 119 for other construction)
- 120 septic systems, 36 wells installed, 95 wells sealed
- 145 feedlot inspections
- 1,600 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals collected

- 15,021 Sheriff's Office responses to calls for service
- Average daily jail population range: 93 to 112
- 28,080 jail bed days (as of Sept. 30, 2015)
- Emergency Management school visits to 1,200 third graders throughout the County
- 911 dispatch calls received: 78,654
  (as of October 27, 2015)

2015 General Fund Service Examples (Continued)

- 2,728 Summer Reading Program participants
- 800-1,000 patrons visiting Blue Earth County Libraries per day
- A wide selection of e-books, e-audio books and Zinio (e-magazines) available to patrons.
- Child & Adult Library Programs (Educational Classes, Events)
- Wi-Fi at all library locations
- Rural Library Services Program allows books and materials to be mailed to rural residents
- 315,000 materials circulated over a 12-month period at all Libraries
- Records and assessing for 33,854 parcels with 1,167,618 property website requests
- Beacon Property Tax System use of 197,899 visits to the site (543 per day)
- 10,720 documents recorded
- 60,714 vital statistics, drivers license, DNR and motor vehicle transactions
- 2,132 passport applications (as of September 30, 2015)
- $25.6 million in Federal benefits administered to local veterans with 510 Veterans transported to the VA for health care
- County Attorney's Office caseloads: 3,878 (as of October 31, 2015)

2015 Public Works & Parks Service Examples

- Road Projects, Planning and Design
  - County Road 12 – CR 17 to Hwy 83
  - County Road 1, Good Thunder (former Hwy 66)
- Road, Construction, Bridge Projects
  - County Road 1 – Hwy 30 to Good Thunder
  - County Road 72 – Kendall Street, Vernon Center
  - CR 147 Historic Bridge
  - Lime Township Bridge Replacement
- Paving Projects
  - Maintenance overlays: 22 miles and Bray Park
  - Maintenance sealcoats: 49 miles
- Partnerships
  - County Road 12 (City of Mankato, MnDOT)

  County Road 1 (former Hwy 66), Good Thunder
- Parks
  - Over 7,000 camping nights
  - 926 acres of conservation lands in the park system
  - 16 parks
  - Williams Nature Center Signage
  - County Road 90 Trail Overlay

2015 Human Services & Probation Service Examples

- Adults or children receiving case management services: 2,406
- Child support cases: 2,564
- Financial & Medical Assistance cases: 7,842
- WIC participants served: 1,958
- SNAP participants: 4,721
- Children in foster care: 129
- Child protection reports investigated: 244
- Adult protection reports investigated: 77
- Adults with mental health needs receiving medication management services: 1,225

(as of September 30, 2015)

- 7,290 community service crew hours by the sentence to serve program.
- 1,332 adult and juvenile offenders on probation
- 280 pre-sentence investigation provided to district court
- 9,730 drug tests collected

(as of October 31, 2015)

Ongoing Opportunities for Citizen Input

- Participation on citizen committees
- Citizens Academy
- County website/social media
- County Board meetings
- "Write Now" citizen surveys
- "County Communicator" citizen newsletter
- Open houses, public events, informational meetings and annual County fair booth

Questions and Answers

Please come to the podium and give your name and address

Thank You for Attending!