



City of Colfax
400 N Mill Street
Colfax, WA 99111
509-397-3861
colfaxwa.org

November 1, 2019

To the Citizens of Colfax:

I am pleased to present the Proposed 2020 Budget for the City of Colfax. The budget reflects the economic challenges that have faced the City for years, and outlines the strategies to balance the precious revenues we receive with the costs of the services you expect. The Proposed Budget is fiscally responsible in that it 1) supports key priorities of the City Council; 2) is balanced as required by state law; and 3) conforms to applicable accounting procedures and practices.

In the past several years we have carefully managed the budget to provide funds for capital expenditures and to compensate for cost increases (e.g. minimum wage). In 2020 we will focus on building our reserves and explore other revenue options.

I want to recognize the efforts of our City Council. They were actively engaged in the budget process and addressed difficult decisions regarding operational and capital expenditures. A thank you also goes out to city staff for controlling costs where they could, and department heads for managing costs of day-to-day operations. A very special thank you goes to Chris Mathis, for taking on the City Administrator role but still successfully managing the city's finances.

Of course, we would not have a budget to manage if it were not for the faithful, tax-paying citizens of our great community. Your tax dollars are collected and used by multiple entities like the State, Whitman County, the Hospital, Colfax Schools, The Whitman County Library, and the City. It takes money to provide the services we have all come to expect and we want you to know that the employees and elected officials of the City of Colfax are doing their best to carefully manage the precious tax dollars that you contribute every year.

Because revenues are hard to project, we constantly strive to make wise, careful, and sometimes difficult spending decisions. Those decisions are based on the premise of controlling costs, managing current revenue sources, and seeking out new revenue

sources. A balanced budget is not only State law, it is responsible governing that allows us to maintain the quality of life that Colfax residents and visitors have come to love.

As always, we want your feedback. Please don't hesitate to contact city Department Heads, City Hall, or myself at mayor@colfaxwa.org or 509-288-0826 if you have ideas, concerns, or just want to discuss how we are spending your tax dollars.

Sincerely,

G. Todd Vanek, Mayor

City Administrator/Finance Director, Chris Mathis, finance@colfaxwa.org

Public Works Department Head, Matt Hammer, pwwd@colfaxwa.org

Colfax Police Department Chief, Rick McNannay, policechief@colfaxwa.org

Colfax Fire and Rescue Volunteer Chief, Craig Corbeill, firechief@colfaxwa.org