

State of the County

County of Warren, New York

Kevin Geraghty, Chairman
January 19, 2024

2024 Budget

A 2024 budget of \$192 million was adopted that marked the fourth straight year of Warren County property tax rate decrease. Fund balance hit a record high of \$44.3 Million. Continued unfunded mandates from the state combined with rising costs of goods and services will strain the budget in 2024 and beyond.

Tax Revenue

Sales tax receipts continue to trend up, showing a strong tourism industry and economic base. Sales tax was up over 4 percent for the year resulting in \$7.6 Million additional sales tax revenue. This resulted in an additional \$4 Million for the County after distribution to the Towns and Village. Both Property Tax and Sales Tax continue to be among the lowest in the state.

Major 2023 Accomplishments



Support for First Responders

- ▶ Board of Supervisors passed the First Responder Tax Exemption in 2023.
- ▶ Recognizes the invaluable service of our first responders.
- ▶ Shows Warren County's unwavering support for those who keep us safe.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- ▶ Finalized allocation of \$12.4 Million in ARPA funds
- ▶ Assisted businesses and community organizations to recover from COVID-19.
- ▶ Significant investment in Community Mental Health capabilities.

Planning for the Future

- ▶ Kicked off Warren County 2040, the Warren County Comprehensive Plan
- ▶ Outline the direction the county will take for decades to come.
- ▶ Keep our focus on top priorities in the coming years.

Transportation Initiatives

- ▶ Recognizing the continual need for a viable public transportation system in the County, the Board approved the merger of Greater Glens Falls Transit with the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA).
- ▶ Merger funded by .25 percent of the County's Mortgage Recording Tax
- ▶ Will eventually provide reliable, comprehensive public transportation across the County.

Infrastructure Improvements

- ▶ Large Scale overhaul of Quaker Road in Queensbury
- ▶ Two bridge replacement projects in Johnsburg.
- ▶ Continued evaluation and replacement of culverts
- ▶ Continued improvements to County roads.

Support to SUNY Adirondack

- ▶ Board of Supervisors partnered with Washington County Board of Supervisors to increase both counties' support to SUNY Adirondack.
- ▶ Brings both county share contributions in line with Community College goals established years ago.
- ▶ Funding for SUNY ADK will be funded at 1/3 from Counties, 1/3 from NY State, and 1/3 from tuition.

Emergency Preparedness

- ▶ The Office of Emergency Services (OES) launched the Ready Warren County smart phone app.
- ▶ Crucial tool for emergency notifications insuring safety of citizens.
- ▶ OES also launched the Warren County Regroup app to provide timely notification of emergencies and other incidents to the Warren County workforce.

Real Property

- ▶ Conducted Successful Warren County property auction.
- ▶ Realized \$17 Million in total property sales.
- ▶ Recouped \$230,000 in unpaid property taxes.

Community Initiatives

- ▶ Supported 50th Anniversary of Balloon Festival which was a massive undertaking at the Warren County Airport and supported by the county workforce.
- ▶ Provided \$3 Million Occupancy Tax funds to the Lake George Winter Coalition to open the “Winter Dreams” event at Fort William Henry. This event will spearhead the Lake George Region’s effort to become a year round destination.
- ▶ LakeGeorge.TV made its debut providing a new video platform to promote local businesses. Over 400 videos and over 25,000 viewers to date.
- ▶ Office for the Aging and Veterans Services partnered to provide van transportation to county seniors and veterans. Service is free to upcounty residents.

2024 Goals

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the page, creating a modern, layered effect. The text '2024 Goals' is centered in a clean, sans-serif font.

2024 Goals

- ▶ Continue our efforts to address broadband access for all Warren County citizens
- ▶ Refocus our commitment to assist in providing affordable housing options across Warren County
- ▶ Continue to recognize our fiscal responsibility of delivering balanced budgets while minimizing the impact on our county taxpayers
- ▶ Build on the success of our merger with CDTA to enhance public transportation across the County.
- ▶ Provide those essential services to our citizens and renew our efforts to support mental health initiatives
- ▶ Strengthen our support to the Regions tourism industry
- ▶ Actively seek ways to bring new businesses into the county while retaining the businesses and industries we currently have
- ▶ Enhance our partnership with area non-profit organizations and businesses that play a vital role in the lives of our county residents
- ▶ Communicate effectively across the Board of Supervisors
- ▶ Maintain transparency with our citizens