



**MEDIA CONTACT:** David Zook  
Cache County Executive  
435-890-9239  
david.zook@cachecounty.org

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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **ZOOK PRESENTS BALANCED BUDGET WITH NO TAX INCREASE** **Cache County Executive Proposes Paying Off \$11.5 million in Debt**

LOGAN, UT - Cache County Executive David Zook today officially presented the 2023 county budget to the County Council. Highlighting the County's financial strength, Mr. Zook worked with County leaders to develop the \$115 million budget plan that includes a balanced budget, proposes no tax increases, and pays of \$11.5 million in debt for the County Public Works building 18 years in advance.

"Being good stewards of the public's tax dollars is among our most important duties," said Mr. Zook. "During this time of extreme inflation, balancing our budget, while avoiding any tax increases was challenging, but it's what our citizens need."

Zook also shared a "Top Ten Highlights" document that lists proposed budget items, such as: the \$11.5 million debt payoff, increased sales tax revenue estimates (\$10.3 million); the payoff of debt for the County Administration building, which will free up \$1.0 million in the General Fund; additional funds for the Senior Citizens Center and Meals on Wheels program; and changes to the Sheriff's budget due to the completion of the new animal shelter.

"I'm excited about the prospect of paying off our public works building," added Zook. "Once we pay off that debt, we'll be able to use the funds we were paying to the bank to fix our roads instead."

By state law, the County Executive must present his final budget to the council by November 1, and the County Council must adopt the County's final budget by the end of this year. As part of a new budget process this year, council members were provided with draft budgets from every department in advance of the final budget submittal by the Executive. Those draft budget documents were provided to the council beginning in August.

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