

OCTOBER 2024 CITY NEWS



Employee Spotlight

on
Seth Senn



**Meet the city staff
that serve you!**

Department: Police

Date started at city:
June, 2024

**Favorite part of working
at the city:** "I enjoy the small-town community and support. It is wonderful to see so many people throughout the day waving and genuinely appreciating the work the Fosston PD does!"

Hobbies/activities: The great outdoors, ice fishing, bird hunting with my two Labrador Retrievers.

Fun fact about Seth: Seth likes to collect 45 RPM vinyl records, in particular rhythm and blues singles from the 50's and 60's. His favorite type of 45's are disc jockey or promotional copies of rare singles.

Motto: "Every day is a new adventure."

City of Fosston | 220 1st St E Fosston, MN 56542 | 218-435-1959 | 218-435-1961 fax | fosston.com
Fosston Police Department 24/7 Non Emergency Line—218-435-6611. For emergencies dial 911

2025 Budget & Levy Information

You've probably been hearing about these topics on the news recently. This is the time of year when counties, schools and cities are required to adopt their preliminary budgets and levies for 2025. Levies are funds received from property taxes and used to operate city and county government, school districts and entities such as watershed districts and regional economic development agencies. When a levy increases, it means that the property taxes on each parcel of property increases unless the overall tax base has increased. An increase in property values or tax capacity as it is known by in the State property tax system, does not generate more revenue, it decreases the overall property taxes. Market values go up when a new building is completed, when a current building is substantially improved, or when the actual selling price of a building increases.

The general property tax levy for 2025 will provide about 20 cents of every dollar spent on City services and capital improvements this year. The total preliminary general fund budget for 2025 that was recently adopted by City Council is \$4,506,758 and the total debt service budget for 2025 will be \$328,103. The preliminary 2025 property tax levy adopted by Council will increase 2.0% or \$10,764 over the 2024 tax levy. The preliminary 2025 tax levy certified to Polk County was \$530,103. Based on the proposed tax levy for 2025 a residential homestead property valued at \$100,000 will pay an estimated \$292 in city tax next year. Even though the proposed 2025 tax levy increased by 2%, the City is projecting that the City portion of the real estate tax bill will see about a 1% decrease, providing there has been no increase in a property owners market value.

Local government aids provided by the State of Minnesota continue to be a significant portion of the City budget. For 2025, state and federal aid payments will account for approximately 73% of general fund and debt service revenues. Fosston will receive \$738,713 in LGA funding, small cities aid, and police state aid, and \$2,614,000 in airport entitlement grants that will be used for a engineering services and taxilane reconfiguration. The airport portion of the budget accounts for 61% of the budget. However, the revenue to offset this accounts for approximately 57% of the revenue.

The balance of the revenue for City operations comes from a variety of sources including local taxes, special assessments, transfers from enterprise funds, interest earned on investments and other miscellaneous charges such as rent and user fees. On average, of the entire city budget only 25-30% comes from property tax.

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Coming Events:

- City Council—Monday, October 14th—7pm
- Fall Craft Show—Saturday, November 2nd
- Light up the Night/Lefse Fest—Friday, November 22nd

October is Public Power Month

The city of Fosston employees 3 linemen, several public works and administrative staff that work to assist in ensuring that you have the reliable electricity you need.



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There's an app for that!



The city is part of the community voice app! Download today to keep up to date with the latest happenings and news in the community. The app is new and we are working to build more into it and make it better.

FINDYOURPLACEINFOSSTON.COM

New rebates for home building, purchasing and even renting!

Please do not mow or blow leaves into the streets

Please be reminded that depositing grass clippings, leaves or any other vegetation on the public streets presents a danger to the water quality of rivers and streams and is also a violation of city ordinances. When grass clippings, leaves or other vegetation is left on streets, sidewalks and driveways they contribute to clogged storm drains and pollution of the rivers and lakes. Decaying grass releases phosphorus which increases algae growth, which leads to algae scum, odor and fish kill. Please collect & dispose of leaves properly or leave them on your lawn. The city sanitation department collects leaves weekly. Place your bagged leaves at the curbside and call City Hall to let us know you have leaves to be picked up. 218-435-1737.



NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Greetings from the Fosston Police Department

I recently had someone ask me about driving their golf cart on the fit trail. Please note that there are signs posted prohibiting motorized vehicles from using the fit trail. The fit trail was created for the public to stay active and promote a healthy lifestyle. I would encourage you to park the golf cart, electric scooter or anything motorized and take a stroll around the walking paths. Besides, a golf cart would take up the entire width of the trail and would force walkers or bike riders off the trail.

The Fosston Police Department would like to remind drivers to watch out for students walking or driving to school. It is also important to slow down and be extremely cautious when driving around the school as students may be in a hurry when crossing the street to get to school on time.

Every year we get calls concerning school bus stop arm violations. Please also be on the lookout for flashing lights from the school buses and watch for that stop-arm to be activated. Minnesota law requires drivers to stay at least 20 feet back from a school bus when the stop-arm is extended.

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