

Cloudcroft Passes Budget on Deadline Despite Financial Uncertainty

By Cloudcroft Reader | August 5, 2025

Cloudcroft met its state budget deadline for the first time since 2023 Thursday night, but not before council members aired deep doubts about spending decisions made just two days earlier in front of a packed audience.

The contrast was stark: Where dozens of residents had crowded Tuesday's meeting to watch heated debates over staff raises, Thursday's budget approval drew only the fire chief, finance director, and two reporters to the village council chambers.

Budget Details

The \$1.7 million budget passed on a 3-0 vote, but the sparse attendance masked continuing divisions over how Cloudcroft should manage its finances while working with unreliable financial records dating back to 2022.

Despite the one-topic agenda, there was interesting back-and-forth between Council members, which revealed the strains of trying to manage the tight village budget when recent financial reporting cannot be relied upon.

Key Challenges

At the heart of Cloudcroft's budget challenges: Two-thirds of the village's operating funds go to personnel costs - police, maintenance, clerks. After years of staff turnover, officials are struggling to balance competitive wages against limited revenue and incomplete financial data.

Staff Raises Discussion

There was discussion about delaying proposed employee raises. Trustee Nick Hanna pointed out that with Alamogordo only 16 miles away and with much higher wages for lateral employment, a commute for Cloudcroft residents is no feat.

Trustee Jim Maynard noted that "this budget, the surplus in the general fund revenue offsets the deficit in the water, wastewater sewer fund, pretty close."

The budget passage represents a significant milestone for the village, which had missed previous deadlines, while highlighting ongoing financial management challenges.

Source: <https://www.cloudcroftreader.com/p/cloudcroft-passes-budget-on-deadline>