

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/2020MinotCitybudgetprojectedtolowerpropertytaxbillsMinotNewsletterAugust2019/>



2020 City budget projected to lower property tax bills

City Manager Tom Barry introduced the largest budget in Minot's history on Aug. 5, while at the same time reporting to the City Council that the City's portion of residents' property tax bills will be lower than it was in 2019.



The preliminary budget Barry presented to the Council for 2020 was \$275 million, a \$95 million increase over the 2019 budget due to committed expenses. But the City's mill levy for the 2019 budget was 129.23 mills, while the proposed 2020 budget will drop that mill levy to 121.29.

How is that possible?

In April, the City's Recreation and Auditorium Department was transferred to Minot Park District, which reduced the City's levy by nearly 8 mills. Consequently, the City's property tax portion will be reduced by approximately 6 percent in 2020.

"I would venture to say that the 2020 budget is probably the largest this city has ever developed. It's astonishing for the size of our town," Barry said. "Not all that money is coming from the City. That's the big misnomer. Oh, my gosh, where'd you guys get an extra \$95 million? What have you been sitting on? That's not the case."

What is the additional \$95 million for in the preliminary budget?

- \$25.9 million for flood control construction
- \$31.8 million is spending sales tax money for flood control projects outside the city limits
- \$9.3 million is for highway projects
- \$8.7 million for capital purchases
- \$11.7 million is for water projects

While a \$95 million budget increase looks daunting, in reality, less than half of that total is actually coming from the City; \$55

million will come from federal and state funding sources for capital projects. Regarding the \$40 million in City money, the City has been allocating money for specific projects for years, and now those funds have to be put into the budget in order for the City to spend them for the designated purposes. Projects like flood control and the Northwest Area Water Supply have a local cost share of 35 percent, this portion comes solely from local sales taxes.

The presentation of the preliminary 2020 budget to the full City Council is the first step in a long process before the budget becomes official. The next meeting on the budget will be when the City Council hosts a question and answer session on Aug. 19 at 4:15 p.m. at the Minot Municipal Auditorium. To read more, [click here](#).

MAGIC Fund recipient receives national recognition

SkySkopes, a professional drone flight operator and MAGIC Fund grant recipient, was recognized as one of the top five drone service providers in



the world by Frost & Sullivan (2019 report). Frost & Sullivan is a global consulting firm that identifies, develops, and creates transformational growth strategies for its clients across the world. It's no coincidence that Frost & Sullivan awarded SkySkopes such acknowledgement as SkySkopes has revolutionized the UAS industry.

The Minot Area Development Corporation (MADC) first met SkySkopes at a UAS conference in 2015, and after a year of building rapport and recruitment, SkySkopes announced the opening of a Minot office in December 2016. In 2017, SkySkopes was awarded MAGIC Fund dollars to further develop its operations, and since then they have exceeded every benchmark locally, paved opportunities nationally, secured recognition globally, and been an outstanding example for the purpose of the MAGIC Fund.

"The MAGIC Fund helped SkySkopes establish our core competencies as an organization. Putting the best sensors in the hands of some of the most highly certified pilots in the world combined with SkySkopes locating in Minot is a winning combination. The fund has also helped us establish partnerships with numerous industry-leading UAS companies. Being introduced to the MADC, furthermore, was one of the most important events in our company's history. The establishment and their staff are one of the true jewels of the state of North Dakota, especially under the leadership of their president & CEO, Stephanie Hoffart. Members of the SkySkopes team always enjoy Stephanie's warm welcomes and wise counsel," said Matt Dunlevy, President & CEO of SkySkopes.

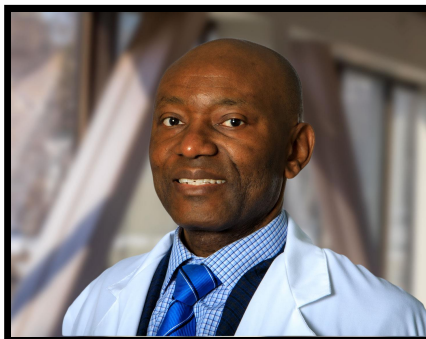
Since securing MAGIC Fund dollars and the opening of the Minot office, SkySkopes has been recognized by Forbes, The New York Times, USA Today, and has achieved many other

accolades. Minot's office is the largest within the company, with 9 full-time benefited employees, including 2 executives. SkySkopes also has offices in Grand Forks, ND, Minneapolis, MN, and Ft. Worth, TX with a total of 24 full-time employees.

Dunlevy added, "having Minot as a home base for SkySkopes is an absolutely essential component of our company and a major reason why we were ranked in the top five UAS companies in the global UAS industry. We see Minot as a Gateway to the Bakken, and the Bakken as a key to the entire oil industry where we expect to have a major multi-national presence in years to come."

Trinity Health adds primary care providers

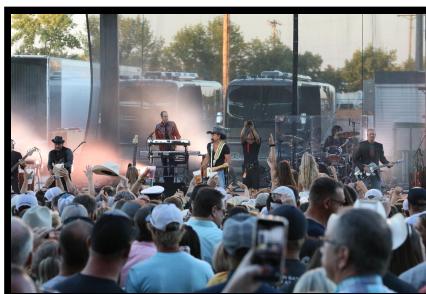
Trinity Health has expanded primary care access in Minot, adding three physicians in the areas of pediatrics and family medicine. Dr. Ndu David Ugobi, FAAP, is a board-certified pediatrician and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He did his pediatric residency at



Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine and spent nine months as a post-graduate fellow in pediatric neurology at McMaster University in Ontario. He's located at Health Center – Medical Arts. Dr. Vanna Binning and Dr. John Folland are family medicine specialists – both completed residency training at the University of North Dakota's Center for Family Medicine in Minot. Dr. Binning is located at Health Center – Medical Arts and Dr. Folland's practice is at Trinity Health East Ridge.

2019 ND State Fair

The North Dakota State Fair had another successful year hosting nearly 300,000 fairgoers. New rides, concerts, and food were a big hit. Visitors had the



opportunity to vote on their favorite food and they picked an overall favorite - the Jalapeno Popper Pizza from Leimon's Pizzeria. KidsSpace was new this year, offering activities for kids of all ages. Tim McGraw was one of the headliners who took the stage during the nine-day fair and he rocked the Grandstand! The 2020 North Dakota State Fair will take place July 17-25.

Chamber annual meeting to feature Federal Reserve employee

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sleep Inn & Suites Convention Center in Minot. This year's annual meeting will

feature Joe Mahon, regional outreach director of the Federal Reserve, Minneapolis, MN, speaking about the region's economy and trends.

Prior to serving as a regional outreach director for the Federal Reserve, Mahon served as a regional economist, and as a staff writer and analyst for bank publications, *The Region* and *fedgazette*. Mahon's primary responsibilities involve tracking several sectors of the Ninth District economy — an area that covers Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana, and portions of Wisconsin and Michigan. The sectors he follows closely include agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and mining. He holds degrees in economics and journalism from the University of Minnesota.



For details on the cost to attend and to register go to www.minotchamber.org. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 11. For more information call 701-852-6000.

Minot State offers online option in criminal justice

At Minot State University, prospective and current students can now begin or complete their criminal justice degree online.



The addition of the online program affords students more flexibility in attaining their criminal justice degree and joins a growing list of learning options provided by Minot State: online, on campus, at Bismarck State College's campus, and through the Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU-ABC). The AU-ABC program provides airmen the opportunity to pursue an advanced education beyond their associate degree.

"We are excited about offering the criminal justice degree as an online option for students," said Gary Rabe, Minot State professor and chair of the criminal justice department. "This is a flexible option for students to complete the degree at a time and place that best fits into their schedule. More and more we see students who have barriers to starting and completing the degree in the traditional on-campus format."

In a high-demand career field, this flexibility offers more learning options for students. The strength of Minot State's criminal justice program enhances the selections.

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