

NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATIVE
FINANCE
COMMITTEE

Local Government Dashboard:
Lincoln County & Village of Ruidoso

Legislative Finance Committee Hearing

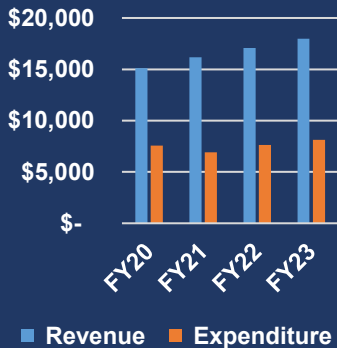
August 20-22

Mescalero, New Mexico

Economy & Finance

Lincoln County's taxable gross receipts in construction grew by \$11 million, or 33 percent from this time last year. Retail trade is still the largest industry of the county's taxable gross receipts, making 24 percent of total taxable gross receipts, followed by construction at 22 percent.

Lincoln County Revenue vs. Expenditures (in thousands)



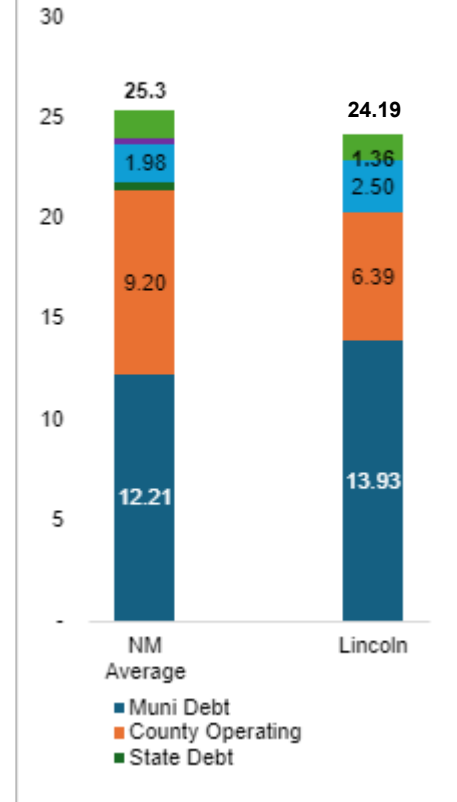
Source: OSA Audits

Lincoln County General Fund Balance (in thousands)



Source: OSA Audits

Residential Property Tax Mills by Use, 2021



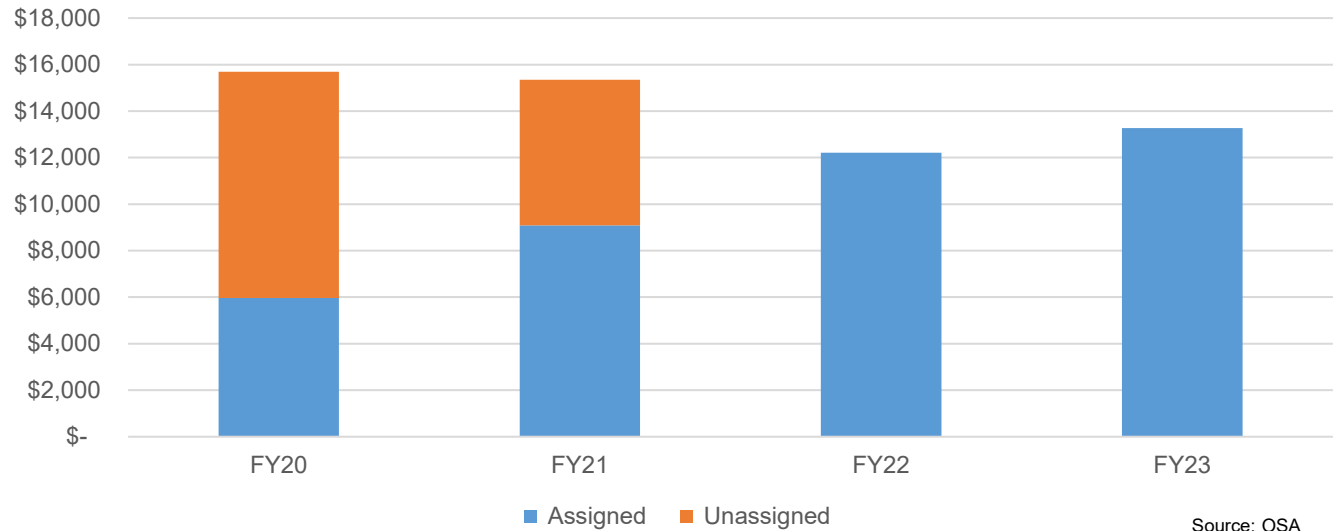
Source: LFC Analysis

- Lincoln County's general fund is primarily made of unassigned funds. Unassigned fund balance represents money that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. Lincoln County has been receiving increases in state operating grants like law enforcement protection and enhanced 911.
- Lincoln County residents are paying less in property tax in relation to their property value than the New Mexico average. The main driver of this is special levies, which constituents vote on. Voted special levies include levied property tax towards hospitals, public schools, local colleges, etc.

Economy & Finance

*Following the Office of the State Auditor's FY23 audit, the Village of Ruidoso had 2 significant deficiencies and 1 non-compliance finding, including falsification of timesheets in the Police Department.

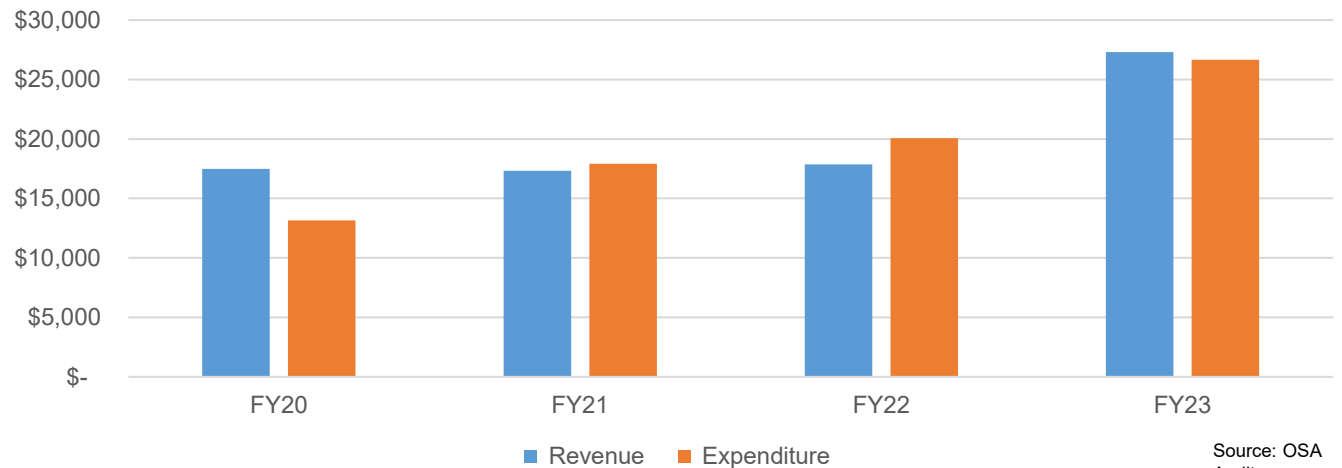
Village of Ruidoso General Fund Balance (in thousands)



Source: OSA Audits

- The Village of Ruidoso had two deficits in unassigned fund balances in FY22 and FY23 not shown in the graph. The Village's deficits are caused by grant-funded projects. The Village expended its own funds for grants, which were not incurred in FY22 or FY23. The Village of Ruidoso has received increases in special revenues, including fire protection and law enforcement retention.

Village of Ruidoso Revenue vs. Expenditures (in thousands)



Source: OSA Audits

Law Enforcement Agencies

Lincoln County Sherriff's Office

- Leadership:
 - Sheriff Michael Wood
- Certified Officers: 11

Ruidoso Police Department

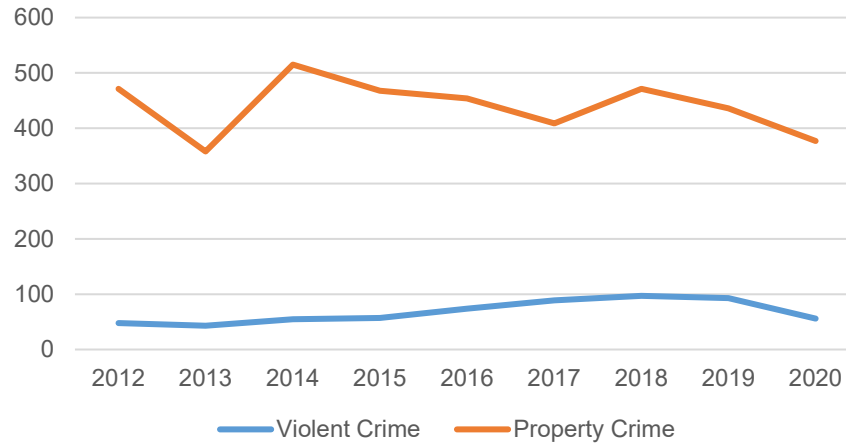
- Leadership:
 - Chief Lawrence Chavez
- Certified Officers: 21

Ruidoso Downs Police Department

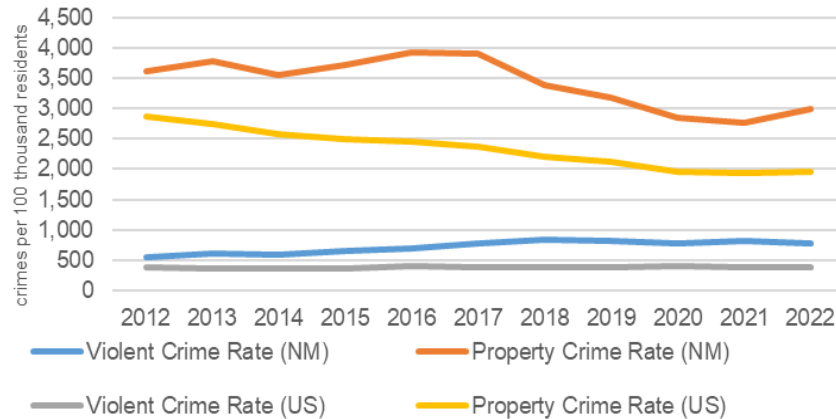
- Leadership:
 - Chief Joe Commander
- Certified Officers: 5

Source: Agency Websites and DFA Local Government Division Law Enforcement Protection Fund Distributions by County and Municipality

Summary Crime Reported
(Lincoln County SO, Ruidoso PD, Ruidoso Downs PD)



Crime Rate History



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Crime Trends and Data Reporting

Rates of Violent and Property Crime had been declining in 2020, the last year the FBI had full data for the region.

*Law enforcement agencies listed here have not reported to the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and consequently, data is incomplete from 2021-2022

Leadership & Resources

Lincoln County Leadership

- **County Commissioners:**
Todd Proctor
Samantha Serna
Jon Crunk
Pierre Pfeffer
Mark Fischer
- **County Manager:**
Randall Camp
- **County Clerk:**
Shannan Hemphill

Mescalero Apache Tribe Leadership

- **President:**
Thora Walsh Padilla
- **Vice President:**
Duane Duffy
- **Tribal Council Members**
Robert "Gabe" Aguilar
Euphtasia Platta
Jacob Daukei
Idella Starr
Caroline Blake
Robert Rice
Alfred LaPaz
Miralene Blaylock



Leadership & Resources

Village of Ruidoso Leadership

- **Mayor:**
Lynn D. Crawford
- **Village Council:**
Rafael "Rifle" Salas
Greg Cory
Joseph W. Eby
Susan Lutterman
Darren Hooker
Gary Jackson
- **Village Manager:**
Ron Serna