

Leon County Budget Development Background and FY2014 Budget Overview

- Total Budget
 - The tentative FY2014 budget of \$223 million is \$339,000 or 0.15 percent greater than the prior year; the budget is essentially flat.
 - *(Note: The budget includes \$2.0 million contemplated for the five-cent gas tax; which is currently set aside in a capital reserves to support the Board's highest transportation funding priorities. The Board will consider an agenda item on September 10, 2013 to determine the allocation of the gas tax. Any portion of the gas tax used to reduce the general revenue subsidy to the transportation program would allow for less use of fund balance. This reduced use of fund balance will correspondingly reduce the overall total budget and therefore potentially make the FY2014 budget reflect a reduced budget from the prior year.)*

- Property Taxes and Budget Balancing
 - The Board accomplished this year's budget level budget by maintaining the millage rate at 8.3144.
 - The total estimated tax collections for FY2014 will be \$1.04 million or 1.0 percent less than 2013.
 - Since FY2009, the total tax collection for the Board has been reduced by \$13.1 million or 11 percent.
 - By maintaining the millage rate, the Board has ensured that in accordance with Florida Statutes there will not be a tax increase next year.
 - This means that the County will not collect more in property tax revenues, excluding new construction, than during the prior fiscal year.
 - However, regardless of the tax rate established by the Board, individual taxable property values may have increased, decreased or remained the same.
 - As such, an individual's property taxes, which are calculated by multiplying the tax rate by the taxable value, may also increase, decrease or remain the same.
 - The actions of the Board are independent of any other local taxing authority.

- Current Year Reductions
 - Through the Cross-Departmental Action Teams, the County identified an immediate \$250,000 in savings related to equipment sharing;
 - A series of reorganizations, which included position eliminations in Facilities Management, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and Library Services;
 - Additional reductions in operating and capital outlay by the Sheriff's Office and the Property Appraiser;
 - Instead of expanding from five to nine early voting sites, the Supervisor of Elections will expand to seven sites, saving \$300,000.
 - Reduction in custodial services to be consistent with building usage.

Leon County Budget Development Background and FY2014 Budget Overview

- Increased Community Investment
 - Provided \$250,000 in initial capital funding for an economic urban incubator in the Gaines Street/Railroad Avenue area.
 - Created a Signature Event fund in the amount of \$125,000 from the Tourist Development bed-tax to assist large festival, sports and heritage events that drive tourism.

- County Employees and Jobs
 - Eliminated an additional net 9.2 jobs, for total of 84 positions over the past five years
 - Accomplished reductions through attrition; no layoffs
 - Shifted a portion of health care cost to employees for family coverage, which brings the employees costs in-line with industry and national norms. Employees will now pay 20% of the cost for family coverage compared to 12.5 %. Employees were held harmless in FY 2014, but the County will realize future year savings by employees paying a larger share of future cost increases. All percentages based on participating in the value based benefits program (VBD).
 - Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1.5 percent in October and 1.5 percent in April was included in the budget for all Board and Constitutional employees.

- Cost Avoidance
 - County LEADs process initiated during FY2011 focused on areas that the County can either control or influence
 - As evidenced by this approach, staff is continuously looking at ways to avoid costs and create efficiencies in the organization
 - Over \$718,00 million in cost avoidance realized this year, including:
 - Avoiding \$290,000 and three positions needed for right-of-way maintenance including the newly finished Mahan Drive by reorganizing road maintenance crews
 - Reviewing equipment sharing possibility, avoiding the purchasing of two dump trucks and saving \$250,000
 - Reorganizing Facilities Management Operation and Maintenance staff, which allowed for the elimination of two positions savings \$106,000
 - Reducing Library Courier and Bookmobile Services saving \$72,000

Leon County Budget Development Background and FY2014 Budget Overview

- Other Budget Actions and Reserves
 - After listening to unincorporated citizens regarding the use of the rural waste service centers, the Board implemented a modest user fee rather than closing the centers
 - For the first time in 23 years, the stormwater assessment fee was increased from \$20 to \$85 for a single family equivalent. The new fee takes into consideration those most in need (low income seniors and disable veterans) and provides credits for those property owners that have already provided for some portion of on-site treatment.
 - Utilized \$5.1 million to balance operating budget (this amount may change pending final property values being established and Board action on the utilization of the gas tax)
 - Maintain overall reserves above policy minimum
- Prior year budget actions
 - Restructuring Library Administration and Collection Services and opening the expanded library branches without adding additional staff;
 - Reducing Executive Management by 33 percent;
 - Closing the Solid Waste Facility to the public for the disposal of Class III waste and contracting with a private vendor to recycle this waste stream;
 - Privatizing the Pre-trial GPS Monitoring Program;
 - Utilization of fund balances to offset budget shortfalls.
- Comparative Information
 - Leon County continues to maintain the lowest net budget, the lowest net budget per resident, the lowest number of employees, and the lowest number of employees per capita than any other like-sized counties in Florida.
 - And when compared to Florida's other 66 counties:
 - Leon County has the fifth lowest net budget per capita; and
 - Leon County has the third lowest number of employees per capita.

**Leon County manages to maintain these efficiency benchmarks with among the highest % of property exempt from property taxation.*
- Public Hearings
 - The first public hearing will be on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers on the fifth floor of the Leon County Courthouse, located at 301 S. Monroe St.
 - The second public hearing will be on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m., at the same location, at which time the Board will adopted the final budget and millage rates.