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## **Arapahoe County adopts 2013 budget**

*Commissioners adopt \$327 million budget that controls spending and honors commitment to Arapahoe County citizens to provide quality services*

LITTLETON, CO --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Dec. 11 adopted a \$327 million budget for 2013 that includes a structurally balanced general fund budget that protects core services, controls spending and honors the County's commitment to provide quality services to the citizens of Arapahoe County.

The 2013 budget protects core services (law enforcement, human services, elections, recording, motor vehicle licensing, property assessments and tax collection) and continues to fund senior transportation, homemaker services, community development block grant funds, employment and workforce development through Arapahoe/Douglas Works! at the same levels as in 2012.

"The 2013 budget reflects the hard work, cooperation and dedication of County departments, elected offices and our budget and finance staff," said Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, who serves as Board Chair and is a member of the County's Executive Budget Committee. "Despite flat revenues and increasing costs, the Arapahoe County Leadership Team worked diligently throughout the year to develop a budget that maximizes efficiencies, is fiscally responsible and still provides quality services to the citizens of Arapahoe County."

The operating budget was balanced through a number of methods including voluntary reductions by Elected Offices and Departments and continued implementation of efficiency measures throughout Arapahoe County. The budget also meets the tenants of Align Arapahoe, the County's performance management system, which was implemented in 2009. By using performance measures and feedback to monitor progress, Align Arapahoe is helping Arapahoe County to make better program, service and budget decisions.

The 2013 budget includes \$9.5 million for capital projects, of which, \$4 million is set aside for new roadway and infrastructure projects; \$1.7 million is planned for renovations to Altura Plaza; \$1.5 million is planned for improvements to the County's Peoria Service Center and \$615,000 will be used to improve the parking lot at the Arapahoe County Justice Center.

The budget includes the hiring of an additional Veteran Services Officer to assist Arapahoe County residents who served in the military to obtain any and all benefits for which they may be eligible. The office provides free assistance to veterans and veterans' dependents in filing for service connected disability, pension, burial benefits, enrollment in Veterans Administration healthcare and education, as well as provide referrals for employment benefits.

The 2013 budget includes funding for 1,963 employees, which is a reduction of 13 employees from 2012. The budget also funds a 2 percent salary adjustment based on merit and shares the increased cost of health insurance with employees.

The mill levy for 2013 will be 16.150 mills, which falls within TABOR constitutional revenue limitations.

A copy of the County's budget is available for review under What's New on the County's web site at [www.arapahogov.com](http://www.arapahogov.com).

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