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Arapahoe County adopts \$328.4 million budget

2011 budget controls growth in operating expenses without impacting services

LITTLETON, CO --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Tuesday adopted a structurally balanced \$328.4 million operating budget that continues core services in 2011 and controls growth in operating expenses without impacting services.

The 2011 budget, which was unanimously approved Tuesday, continues to fund senior transportation, homemaker services, community development block grant funds, employment and workforce development through Arapahoe/Douglas Works! and weatherization services at the same levels as in 2010.

"Throughout 2010, our departments and elected offices worked together to help prepare a structurally-balanced budget," said Rod Bockenfeld, who serves as Board Chair. "As has been our practice for several years, we have closely monitored our budget, tightened our belts and exercised great discipline to make sure we do not spend more than our revenues. As a result, we have been able to control the growth in our operating expenses without impacting services to the citizens of Arapahoe County."

The budget includes \$9.4 million for capital projects, of which, \$800,000 will be set aside for the I-25 and Arapahoe Road interchange project; \$600,000 to improve Quincy Avenue from Kiowa to Strasburg; \$350,000 to improve the Dayton/Peakview intersection; and \$900,000 to add a training track and parking lot for the Sheriff's Office at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park.

In 2011, Arapahoe County also will resurface and expand the parking lot of the Justice Center campus in Dove Valley, as well as improve security and expand the lobbies of the two court buildings.

During the last several years, the Board of County Commissioners has focused on maintaining a balanced operating budget by continuing to find ways to become more efficient and effective; using fund balance for one-time budget needs and capital projects instead of ongoing operations; and limiting growth of the County's general fund operating budget.

And, moving forward, Arapahoe County remains cautious in light of an uncertain economy and the results of the 2011 property revaluation, which could impact revenues for the County's 2012 and 2013 budgets.

The 2011 budget will include 1,975 employees, which is down roughly two positions. The mill levy for 2011 will be 14.949 mills, remaining below the TABOR constitutional revenue limitations.

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