

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4630
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

For release: December 12, 2008

Contact:

ANDREA RASIZER

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

E-mail: arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County adopts \$350.8 million budget for 2009

Budget ensures vital County services available to seniors, unemployed during these uncertain economic times

LITTLETON, CO --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Tuesday adopted a balanced \$350.8 million budget that ensures vital County services will continue in 2009 to seniors, people facing unemployment and families struggling to make ends meet.

After years of belt-tightening during better economic times, Arapahoe County finds itself in a good position to weather through the current financial storm.

The 2009 budget, which is 5 percent less than 2008 due to fewer capital expenditure needs, will continue 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 2008.

The budget also includes funding for new voting machines, improvements to the Arapahoe Road and Parker Road interchange and the widening of Broncos Parkway.

"This year we've seen significant economic challenges at the local, state and national level and very few local governments are immune," said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chairman.

"Arapahoe County has been very committed over the last few years to tighten our belts in hopes that we could weather the bad economic times. Now, we are benefiting from that vision. With this budget, we are taking care of the citizens, taking care of our employees and following our mission to provide the best County services to our community."

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.

"Arapahoe County is in excellent financial condition today because we have been fiscally conservative," said Commissioner Jim Dyer, who serves as Chair Pro Tem. "Through our budgeting process, we've taken great efforts to make sure we spend taxpayer dollars wisely and carefully, so we are in a position where we don't have to make those tough budget cuts."

The 2009 budget will include 1,946 employees, which is an increase of 3.75 new full-time positions, two of which will provide additional Child Support Enforcement staff. Other new positions include two

maintenance staff for new facilities, one Open Space Maintenance Worker and one Concealed Weapons Permit position in the Sheriff's Office.

The mill levy for 2009 will be 14.609 mills, remaining below the TABOR constitutional revenue limitations. Arapahoe County's mill levy will continue to remain one of the lowest county mill levies in the Denver metro area.

* * *