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## **Arapahoe County proposes balanced 2009 budget**

LITTLETON, CO. --- On Tuesday, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners reviewed a balanced \$329.3 million 2009 budget proposal, down 11 percent over last year's budget due to fewer capital expenditure needs in 2009.

The recommended budget for 2009 includes \$5 million for the expansion of the jail, \$2.5 million for the widening of Broncos Parkway, \$2.2 million for work on the Arapahoe Road/Parker Road Interchange and \$1.6 million for additional voting machines.

The budget also includes 4.75 new full-time positions, two of which will provide additional Child Support Enforcement staff. Other new positions proposed for 2009 include two maintenance staff for new facilities, one Open Space Maintenance Worker and one Concealed Weapons Permit position in the Sheriff's Office.

The budget was developed throughout the summer and early fall by the Executive Budget Committee which reviewed budget requests and worked with elected officials and department directors to refine budget recommendations. The Executive Budget Committee is comprised of Commissioner Chairman Susan Beckman, Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty, and Special Assistant to the Board Shannon Carter with assistance from the Finance Department.

The Executive Budget Committee focused on maintaining a structurally balanced General Fund operating budget, limiting the growth in the County's operating budget, continuing to use fund balance for one-time needs and capital projects and developing ways to become more efficient and effective.

"Kudos to the staff and the Executive Budget Committee for their hard work on the recommended budget," said Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chair. "They have done outstanding work and have put us in a very stable financial position."

The mill levy for 2009 will be 14.592 mills, remaining within the constitutional revenue limitations. Arapahoe County's mill levy will continue to remain one of the lowest county mill levies in the Denver metro area.

"The public hears all the time about governments not managing dollars well," said Beckman. "We are proud that living under the TABOR cap, we're able to provide for our capital needs and our employees and still be able to provide excellent essential services to the citizens of Arapahoe County."

The 2009 Budget is scheduled for adoption at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 9 during the Commissioners' Public Hearing. The Public Hearing is held in the East Hearing Room of the County's Administration Building, 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton and is open to the public.

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