

Program Area Overview

The **Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR)** Program Area consists of one department with the following goals:

- Manage and protect our natural resources for future generations.
- *Provide a cost-effective, efficient, and safe transportation system in balance with the social, economic and environmental needs of the community.*
- *Provide increasing and diverse recreational opportunities using public resources.*

Key Service Populations

The key service populations or major stakeholders of the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area are:

- *Taxpayers - both property owners and renters*
- *Resident Citizens*
- *Commissioners' Court*
- *Employees*
- *LCRA*
- *TXDOT*
- *Builders and Developers*
- *Capital Metro*
- *City of Austin*
- *Austin/Travis County Environmental Community*

Staffing

For FY 03, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 366.35 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. The table shows that this Program Area has experienced an increase of 1 FTE from FY 02 - FY 03 (excluding 18.9 positions that are funded in bond funds).

Budget

The total budget for the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area from both the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund has been increased from \$13,532,589 in FY 92 to \$34,881,536 in FY 03, an increase of \$21,348,947 or 158 percent over the past eleven years. The increases are largely due to additional programs and funding changes, including:

- Environmental Services
- Fleet and Sign Shop Services
- On-Site Sewage Facilities
- Balcones Canyonland Preserves
- Absorption of capital purchases within the Road and Bridge Fund

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 92 and FY 01 through FY 03.

For FY 03, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area was appropriated \$1,163,847 for CAR funded capital equipment, \$4,907,517 in Road & Bridge funds for capital equipment and projects, \$61,900 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital equipment, \$1,468,072 for new CO funded capital projects, and \$1,102,000 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$8,703,336. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 03 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment. Please note that starting in FY 02, the CAR funded capital equipment was added to the department's operating budget as shown on the TNR General Fund summary information. This change is attributable to new accounting standards implemented by the County under GASB 34.

Table A

**Permanent Positions - All Funds*
FY 2000 - FY 2003**

Department	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 03 - FY 02 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	129.10	135.90	139.93	140.93	1.00	0.7%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	224.75	223.95	222.92	222.92	0.00	0.0%
TNR - BCP Fund	0.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.0%
SUBTOTAL	354.35	362.35	365.35	366.35	1.00	0.3%
TNR - Other Funds*	20.1	18.9	18.9	18.9	-	N.A.

* Other Funds include grant- and bond-funded employees.

Table B

**TNR Budget
FY 1992 - FY 2003**

Department	Adopted Budget FY 92	Adopted Budget FY 01	Adopted Budget FY 02	Adopted Budget FY 03	FY 92 - FY 03 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$13,532,589	\$10,778,920	\$13,716,702	\$12,831,177	(\$701,412)	-5%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$0	\$18,713,880	\$21,180,062	\$22,050,359	\$22,050,359	
TNR Transfer from G.F. to R&B	\$0	(\$1,857,168)	(\$122,287)	\$0	\$0	
Total TNR	\$13,532,589	\$27,635,632	\$34,774,477	\$34,881,536	\$21,348,947	158%

Transportation and Natural Resources (49)

General Fund

Mission Statement

The mission of the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources department is to provide citizens living in unincorporated areas of the county with comprehensive transportation, natural resources management, and public service systems in order to promote public safety, health and welfare in compliance with Texas laws and mandates of the Travis County Commissioners Court.

Organizational Structure

The organizational chart is attached.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 00 Actual	FY 01 Actual	FY 02 Projected	FY 03 Projected
Number of residential development permits	3,608	2,308	3,200	2,500
Percent of residential permits processed within 10 days	99%	95%	95%	95%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	596,237	664,479	643,126	650,500
Percent of park visitors rating overall park experience as good or excellent	94%	92%	95%	95%
Number of BCP participation certificates	16	24	20	20
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	631	2,451	4,390	4,700

Adopted Budgets FY 00-03

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	Diff FY 03-02
Personnel	\$5,608,138	\$6,291,584	\$6,872,971	\$6,968,755	\$95,784
Operating	\$4,008,367	\$4,487,336	\$3,796,156	\$4,698,575	\$902,419
CAR	(A)	(A)	\$3,047,575	\$1,163,847	(\$1,883,728)
Fund Total	\$9,616,505	\$10,778,920	\$13,716,702	\$12,831,177	(\$885,525)
FTE	129.10	135.90	139.93	140.93	1.00
Prior Year CAR	\$1,990,492	\$2,468,250	(A)	(A)	(A)
Other Capital (B)	\$16,946,156	\$18,171,118	\$7,583,998	\$8,703,336	\$1,119,338

- (A) Items funded through the Capital Acquisition Resources Account (CAR) before FY 02 were funded outside the department’s General Fund operating budget. The amounts funded in prior years are shown below under “Prior Year CAR”.
- (B) Other Capital includes such sources as Certificates of Obligation, Road & Bridge funds, Bond and other funds.

FY 03 Budget Issues

The FY 03 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has decreased by \$885,525 from the FY 02 budget. This decrease is attributable to reduced CAR expenditures within TNR for FY 03. TNR's operating and personnel budgets combined have actually increased by \$998,203. This increase is comprised of a \$95,784 increase in the personnel budget and a \$902,419 increase in operating funds. (of the operating budget increase is due to an increased BCP Fund transfer, totaling \$838,808).

History of Relationship between General Fund and Road & Bridge Fund

Prior to FY 98, the General Fund supplemented the Road & Bridge Fund through transfers. In FY 96, the transfer from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund was \$1,950,684. In FY 97 the transfer was budgeted at \$391,161. In FY 98 there was not a transfer from the General Fund into the Road and Bridge Fund. However, in FY 99, there was a \$3,790,151 transfer to the Road & Bridge Fund as a result of a one-cent General Fund tax increase dedicated to road and bridge improvements. In FY 00, the transfer to the Road & Bridge Fund was reduced by \$2,024,745 in order to leave the Road & Bridge Fund's share of the Unallocated Reserve in the General Fund. The Road & Bridge Unallocated Reserve was budgeted directly in the Special Fund in FY 99. This allowed the General Fund to carry the Unallocated Reserve for the Road & Bridge Fund, as it did previous to FY 99. The FY 01 transfer was \$1,857,168.

In FY 02, the gross supplement from the General Fund to the Road & Bridge Fund was \$3,790,151, as was approved in FY 99. However, due to changes in the recording of fine revenue collected under Title VII of the Transportation Code, the Road & Bridge Fund is receiving additional revenue from highway fines of \$3,667,864 above and beyond its own historical revenue sources. This money was deposited into the County's General Fund in previous fiscal years. Therefore, the FY 02 net transfer from the General Fund to the Road & Bridge Fund was only \$122,287 (equal to \$3,790,151 less \$3,667,864). In FY 03, the fines increased to \$4,004,901 and the transfer was eliminated.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$95,784, include:

- TNR internally reallocated \$58,374 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- An increase of \$109,041 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- An increase of \$16,152 for annualization of the FY 02 Peace Officer Pay Scale (POPS) step increase and the FY 03 budget requirement for the annual POPS step increase
- A decrease of \$20,779 related to one time performance based pay in FY 02 for employees who have reached their pay grade's maximum pay.
- \$1,146 for the Court-approved Executive Manager pay increase.
- An additional \$48,598 for a new Engineering Associate II position to support the TNR Stormwater Management program.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$902,419, include:

- A decrease of \$4,880 for one time costs incurred in FY 02.

- A total of \$56,138 to annualize the transfer of the budget for utilities in Travis County parks. These expenditures were previously budgeted in the Sheriff's Office and Facilities Management.
- TNR internally reallocated \$58,374 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A reduction of \$122,287 from last year's General Fund transfer to the Road & Bridge Fund due to increased fine revenue collected under Title VII of the Transportation Code.
- A total increase of \$838,808 in the amount transferred from TNR's General Fund to the Balcones Canyonland Preservation Fund (BCP – Fund 038). This transfer is based on the new construction revenue from BCP permits and Individual 10A Permits through US Fish and Wildlife.
- An increase to the Keep Austin Beautiful program of \$21,000.
- \$11,566 to support a new work order system. The capital portion of this project is split funded with the Road & Bridge Fund and CAR. The total cost of the work order system is \$268,877.
- An additional \$4,500 to support the new Engineering Associate II position for the TNR Stormwater Management program.
- A total of \$39,200 for increased costs in auto repairs and fuel for countywide vehicle maintenance. This is due to a revision of the Vehicle Replacement Policy, which extends the replacement eligibility criteria from 60,000 miles and 7 years to 84,000 miles and 8 years.

FY 03 Capital Budget

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$8,703,336.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$1,163,847)

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$830,000)
- Onion Creek Corp of Engineer Study (\$264,750)
- Work Order System (\$69,097)

In addition to the items and projects outlined above, the FY 03 Adopted Budget also includes \$3,497 for telephone and computer equipment budgeted centrally in Information and Telecommunication Systems.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from Road & Bridge funds (\$4,907,517)

- HMAC Projects (\$1,779,760)
- "F" Mix Projects (\$1,100,000)
- Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$993,000)
- Rebudgeted Traffic Signals (\$246,543)
- Traffic Signals – New Installations (\$200,000)
- Work Order System (\$188,214)
- Sidewalks – New Installations (\$100,000)
- Rebudgeted Sidewalks (\$100,000)
- Rebudgeted Guardrail (\$80,000)
- GPS System Replacement (\$50,000)

- Spill Control Improvements (\$50,000)
- Rebudgeted Springwillow Project (\$20,000)

Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$61,900)

- Boat Dock Replacement - Pace Bend Park (\$40,000)
- Fence Replacement - Arkansas Bend and Sandy Creek Parks (\$21,900)

Capital Projects funded out of twenty year Certificates of Obligation (\$1,468,072)

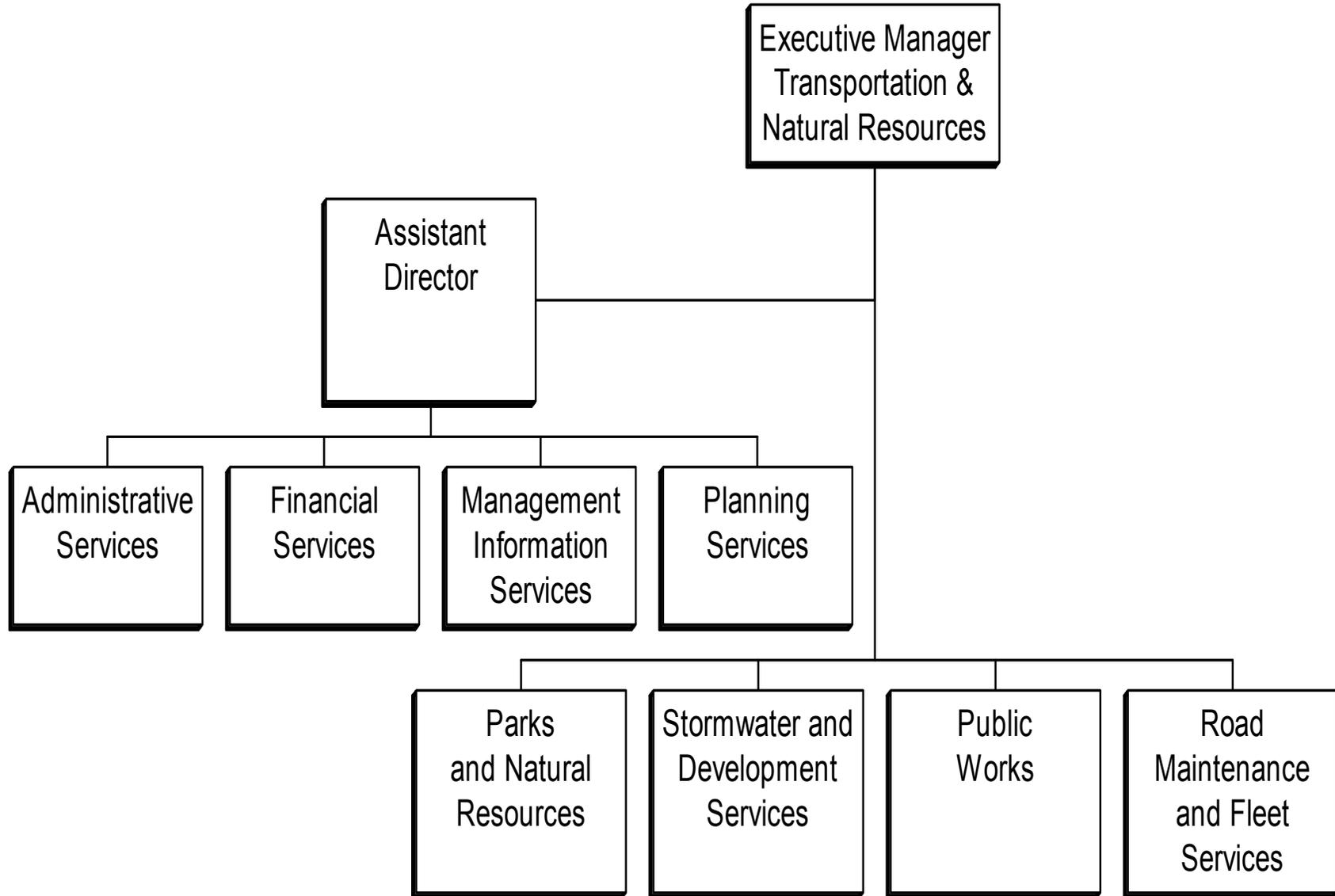
- State Hwy 45 North - Additional Funding (\$570,000)
- Loop 1 North - Additional Funding (\$500,000)
- Moya Park Repairs (\$398,072)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligations (\$1,102,000)

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$562,000)
- Onion Creek Drainage Project (\$540,000)

The funds used for the above equipment and projects came from interest earned and savings on completed projects from prior year Certificate of Obligation issuances.

TRANSPORTATION & NATURAL RESOURCES



**Transportation and Natural Resources (49)
LCRA/TC CIP Fund (Fund 029)**

Purpose

The Lower Colorado River Authority/Travis County Capital Improvements Project (LCRA/TC CIP) Fund provides for the design and construction of capital improvements in accordance with the schedule for construction in the approved Master Park Plan. It also provides for major repair and replacement due to those occurrences described in Article VII, Paragraph F of the LCRA/Travis County Park Lease Agreement.

Funding Source

The source of funding is the entrance fees charged to visitors of the LCRA-owned, county-managed parks. According to the lease agreement, no less than 15 percent of park revenues and no more than 50 percent of all park revenues may be put into this fund. (Travis County currently deposits 15 percent of park revenues into the fund). According to the County Auditor's Revenue estimate, the revenue from this source will be \$154,965 in FY 03 and interest revenue will be \$60,000. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,186,624, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,401,589.

Adopted Budgets FY 00-03

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	Diff FY 03-02
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$1,889,399	\$2,041,529	\$2,315,380	\$2,401,589	\$86,209
Total	\$1,889,399	\$2,041,529	\$2,315,380	\$2,401,589	\$86,209
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 03 Budget Issues

The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has all of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve, including funds for a boat dock replacement at Pace Bend Park and fence replacements at Arkansas Bend and Sandy Creek Parks. These improvements are listed in the TNR Capital Section. Expenditures from this fund require the advance approval of LCRA.

**Transportation and Natural Resources (49)
Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund
(Fund 038)**

Purpose

The Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund was established to enable the County to meet its obligations and requirements under a federal Endangered Species Act permit issued to Travis County and the City of Austin jointly (i.e., the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan [BCCP], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit no. PRT 788841). The fund also helps meet the County’s obligations under an interlocal agreement with the City of Austin for the BCCP.

Funding Source

The Balcones Canyonlands Preservation (BCP) program was established in FY 97 within the Transportation and Natural Resources department. A special fund was established in FY 98 for BCP, which derives its income from 50% of the revenue produced from the issuance of participation certificates under the BCCP permit. The City of Austin also receives 50% of the revenue to provide operating funds for habitat lands.

FY 03 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$6,492,879, an increase of \$464,198 over FY 02. This increase resulted from a \$374,122 decrease in the beginning fund balance, a \$221,137 increase in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), a \$83,858 decrease in interest earned, a \$838,808 increase in the transfer from the General Fund (representing estimated additional tax revenue from new construction on BCP land), and a decrease in miscellaneous revenue of \$137,767 for the operations and maintenance of BCP land. The General Fund transfer is based on the new construction revenue from BCP permits and Individual 10A permits through US Fish and Wildlife.

Adopted Budgets FY 00-03

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	Diff FY 03-02
Personnel	\$16,450	\$87,480	\$105,989	\$111,324	\$5,335
Operating	\$1,866,407	\$3,016,858	\$5,922,692	\$6,381,555	\$458,863
Total	\$1,882,857	\$3,104,338	\$6,028,681	\$6,492,879	\$464,198
FTE	0.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0

FY 03 Budget Issues

Budgeted expenditures for FY 03 include salaries and benefits totaling \$111,324 for a Park Ranger (0.75 FTE) and two Resource Management Technicians (1.75 FTE). The Special Fund’s operating budget is \$6,381,555. These funds have a specific and designated purpose and will be used only for the purchase and maintenance of habitat land.

**Transportation and Natural Resources (49)
Mary Quinlan Park Fund (Fund 048)**

Purpose

The Mary Quinlan Park Fund provides funds for improvements at this Travis County park.

Funding Source

The source of funding for this Fund is derived from a lawsuit settlement related to access to the parkland as well as an access right-of-way agreement that will produce \$5,000 for this Fund every fiscal year. According to the County Auditor's Revenue estimate, the revenue from this source will be \$5,000 in FY 03. The beginning balance for this fund is \$255,000, for total budgeted revenue of \$260,000.

Adopted Budgets FY 00-03

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	Diff FY 03-02
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$0	\$0	\$255,000	\$260,000	\$5,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$255,000	\$260,000	\$5,000
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 03 Budget Issues

The Mary Quinlan Park Fund has all of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. These funds can only be used for improvements to Mary Quinlan Park.

Transportation and Natural Resources (49)

Road and Bridge Fund (Fund 099)

Purpose

The Road and Bridge Fund provides for the maintenance of the county's roads and bridges.

Funding Source

The Road & Bridge Fund generates revenue from a \$10 fee on each motor vehicle registration, retention of 5 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax, and a distribution from the state, county, and road district highway fund based on the Travis County's area, rural population, and road mileage. In FY 03, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources is \$12,925,000. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$175,000, miscellaneous revenue is estimated at \$37,000, \$4,004,901 is estimated as highway fine revenue and the beginning balance is \$4,908,458. There is no transfer from the General Fund in FY 03. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$22,050,359. The Unallocated Reserve requirements for this Special Fund are maintained within the General Fund.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 00 Actual	FY 01 Actual	FY 02 Projected	FY 03 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	21.32	17.4	19.8	22
Miles of Chip Seal	107.4	67.3	90	100
Miles of HMAC Overlay	37.91	35.8	32.8	40
Percent of accepted county roads in marginal to good condition (Note: Surveys completed in FY 87, FY 93, FY 98 & FY 01)	N.A.	97.4%	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points (Note: Formal survey is performed by TxDOT every two years)	N.A.	N.A.	4.4%	N.A.

N.A. data not currently available

Adopted Budgets FY 00-03

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	Diff FY 03-02
Personnel	\$7,932,325	\$8,632,185	\$8,996,691	\$9,011,685	\$14,994
Operating	\$10,474,447	\$10,081,695	\$12,183,371	\$13,038,674	\$855,303
Total	\$18,406,772	\$18,713,880	\$21,180,062	\$22,050,359	\$870,297
FTE	224.75	223.95	222.92	222.92	0.00

FY 03 Budget Issues

FY 03 is the eighth year in which road and bridge related expenditures have been budgeted directly in the Road & Bridge Fund. There is an \$870,297 increase in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 02.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$14,994, include:

- TNR internally reallocated \$92,288 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- \$2,111 for the Court-approved Executive Manager pay increase.
- A decrease of \$63,289 related to one time performance based pay in FY 02 for employees who have reached their pay grade’s maximum pay.
- An increase of \$168,460 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$855,303, include:

- The removal of one-time expenditures totaling \$5,942,230.
- A total of \$446,543 for re-budgeted capital items originally approved in FY 02 but not yet purchased.
- The addition of \$4,460,974 for new FY 03 approved capital equipment and projects as described in the TNR Capital Section.
- TNR internally reallocated \$92,288 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- An additional \$50,000 to support the Stormwater Management Program.
- A total of \$22,500 for increased costs in auto repairs and fuel for countywide vehicle maintenance. This is due to a revision of the Vehicle Replacement Policy, which extends replacement eligibility criteria from 60,000 miles and 7 years to 84,000 miles and 8 years.
- An increase to the Allocated Reserve of \$1,725,228. Some of this reserve may be used for possible compensation increases yet to be determined by the Commissioners Court.