



## **PLANNING AND BUDGET OFFICE**

### **TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

---

314 W. 11th Street  
P.O. Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767

December 3, 2004

To: Members of the Commissioners Court, Travis County  
Elected Officials, Appointed Officials, employees and constituents

From: Christian R. Smith, Executive Manager, Planning and Budget  
Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager

Re: Fiscal Year 2005 Adopted Budget

Enclosed is the Travis County Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2005. It was adopted by the Commissioners Court on Tuesday, September 28, 2004 and will serve as the County's budget plan from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005.

Travis County is in reasonably good financial shape. Its finances are relatively stable and the County has recently had its AAA bond rating reconfirmed by the two national credit rating agencies. The County has managed its resources carefully to navigate through some recently difficult economic times. This relatively positive situation is due to increased reserves and fund balances established during better economic times in anticipation of an eventual economic downturn. These preparations, along with historically careful spending, relatively low reliance on fluctuating income sources, careful adherence to a set of adopted "Financial and Budgeting Guidelines", and avoidance of using one-time revenue for ongoing costs have all paved the way for a fundamentally sound FY 05 budget. While the County still faces budgetary challenges for FY 05, it does so with officials prepared to control costs and implement improved efficiencies, while meeting the public's demand for services.

While the County is fiscally stable, this does not mean there are extensive resources for program expansions. This Adopted Budget includes minimal programmatic growth. As a result, for FY 05, departments have been encouraged to: (a) look internally within their existing resources; (b) foster increased non-property tax revenue; and (c) not rely on increased property taxes.

The Chief Appraiser for the Travis Central Appraisal District has indicated that commercial properties will once again experience a decrease in their value for FY 05. In addition, the average homestead value will increase from \$191,240 to \$197,874. This means that once again, there will be a shifting of overall tax burden from the commercial sector to the residential sector.

The Adopted Budget is balanced at the Effective Maintenance and Operations (M & O) plus Debt Tax Rate (\$.5016), less a reduction to reflect the transfer of indigent health care to the new Hospital District (\$.0144). The total tax rate is \$.4872. The Effective tax rate is the tax rate necessary to generate the same amount of Maintenance and Operations revenue in the General Fund plus the current year debt from the same property as the year before. Property values from new properties that have not before been on the tax rolls are excluded. The tax rate reduction due to the new Hospital District was certified by an independent auditor, as required by law.

To meet the County's capital needs, a total of \$32,522,800 is included in the Adopted Budget from the following basic sources - the General Fund Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) account (\$9,132,960), debt from new short-term Certificates of Obligation (\$12,400,000), projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$1,724,785), the Road and Bridge Fund (\$4,156,000), the Justice Court Technology Fund (\$19,055), and debt from long-term bonds authorized by the voters (\$5,090,000).

This Adopted Budget represents a sound financial plan for FY 05. The budget has been filed with the County Clerk and additional copies are available in the Planning and Budget Office in the Ned Granger Administration Building, 314 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 540. It is also posted on Travis County's external web site, ([www.co.travis.tx.us](http://www.co.travis.tx.us)) and on Travis County's internal web site.

FY 2005 ADOPTED BUDGET  
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   | <b><u>Page Number</u></b> |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b><u>Introductory Letter</u></b>   |                           |
| <b><u>Table of Contents</u></b>   | i                         |
| <b><u>List of Departments</u></b>   | ii                        |
| <b><u>Preface</u></b>   | iii                       |
| <b><u>Organizational Chart</u></b>  | v                         |
| <br>  |                           |
| <b><u>Section I - Executive Summary</u></b>                                       | 1                         |
| <br>  |                           |
| <b><u>Section II - Appendix I - Financial Summaries &amp; Charts</u></b>          | 29                        |
| • Table 1 - Recapitulation of the Adopted Budget                                  | 30                        |
| • Chart 1 - Where Does the Money Come From? – All Funds                           | 33                        |
| • Chart 2 - Where Does the Money Go? - All Funds                                  | 34                        |
| • Chart 3 - Where Does the Money Come From? – General Fund                        | 35                        |
| • Chart 4 - Where Does the Money Go? – General Fund                               | 36                        |
| • Table 2 - FY 03 – FY 05 Adopted General Fund Department Budgets                 | 37                        |
| • Table 3 – Position Changes List   | 39                        |
| • Table 4 - Staffing Comparison in FTE’s, General Fund and Special Funds          | 43                        |
| • Table 5 - Reserve Ratio of General Fund and Debt Service Combined               | 44                        |
| • Table 6 - Capital Funded Through CAR  | 45                        |
| • Table 7 - Computers/Software Budgeted Centrally in ITS                          | 49                        |
| • Table 8 - Vehicles and Heavy Equipment Budgeted Centrally in TNR                | 52                        |
| • Table 9 - Projects Funded Through New Certificates of Obligation                | 55                        |
| • Table 10 - Projects Funded Through Existing Certificates of Obligation          | 56                        |
| • Table 11 - Projects Funded Through FY 05 Issued Voter Approved Bonds            | 57                        |
| • Table 12 - Projects Funded from Road & Bridge and Justice Court Tech. Funds     | 58                        |
| • Table 13 - Approved Earmarks on Allocated Reserves and CAR Reserve              | 59                        |
| • Table 14 - Combined Balance Sheet   | 60                        |
| • Table 15 - Combined Revenues and Expenditures Statement                         | 61                        |
| • Table 16 - Tax Rate Comparison, FY 1994 – FY 2005                               | 62                        |
| • Chart 5 - Travis County Taxes on the Average Homestead and Property Tax Revenue | 63                        |
| • Chart 6 - Net Taxable Value of All Travis County Property, FY 1987 – FY 2005    | 64                        |
| • Chart 7 – Property Tax on Avg. Travis County Home vs. Median Family Income      | 65                        |
| • Chart 8 – Percent Increases in Property Taxes on Avg. Travis County Homestead   | 65                        |
| <br>  |                           |
| <b><u>Section III - Departmental Budgets</u></b>                                  | 66                        |
| • Justice and Public Safety   | 67-170                    |
| • Health, Human and Veterans Services   | 171-182                   |
| • Transportation and Natural Resources  | 183-194                   |
| • General Government and Support Services   | 195-252                   |
| <br>  |                           |
| <b><u>Section IV - Appendix II – Revenue Estimate and Other Material</u></b>      | 253                       |
| • Budget-Related Orders – Tax Rate, Budget, and Elected Officials’ Salaries       |                           |
| • Financial and Budgeting Guidelines, including the Debt Policy                   |                           |
| • Framing the FY 05 Planning and Budget Process                                   |                           |
| • Revenue Estimate  |                           |

**Departments by Number:**

| No. | Name                                      | Page |
|-----|---|------|
| 01  | County Judge                              | 198  |
| 02  | Commissioner - Precinct 1                 | 201  |
| 03  | Commissioner - Precinct 2                 | 203  |
| 04  | Commissioner - Precinct 3                 | 205  |
| 05  | Commissioner - Precinct 4                 | 207  |
| 06  | County Auditor                            | 209  |
| 07  | County Treasurer                          | 212  |
| 08  | Tax Assessor - Collector                  | 214  |
| 09  | Planning and Budget                       | 216  |
| 10  | General Administration                    | 218  |
| 11  | Human Resource Management                 | 220  |
| 12  | Information & Telecommunication Sys (ITS) | 227  |
| 14  | Facilities Management                     | 232  |
| 15  | Purchasing & Inventory Management         | 239  |
| 16  | Veterans Services Office                  | 174  |
| 17  | Historical Commission                     | 241  |
| 18  | Cooperative Extension Service             | 176  |
| 19  | County Attorney                           | 71   |
| 20  | County Clerk                              | 75   |
| 21  | District Clerk                            | 83   |
| 22  | Civil Courts                              | 88   |
| 23  | District Attorney                         | 94   |
| 24  | Criminal Courts                           | 98   |
| 25  | Probate Court                             | 103  |
| 26  | Justice of Peace - Precinct 1             | 107  |
| 27  | Justice of Peace - Precinct 2             | 114  |
| 28  | Justice of Peace - Precinct 3             | 116  |
| 29  | Justice of Peace - Precinct 4             | 119  |
| 30  | Justice of Peace - Precinct 5             | 122  |
| 31  | Constable - Precinct 1                    | 125  |
| 32  | Constable - Precinct 2                    | 128  |
| 33  | Constable - Precinct 3                    | 130  |
| 34  | Constable - Precinct 4                    | 132  |
| 35  | Constable - Precinct 5                    | 134  |
| 36  | Dispute Resolution Center                 | 137  |
| 37  | Sheriff's Department                      | 138  |
| 38  | Medical Examiner                          | 145  |
| 39  | Community Supervision & Corrections       | 147  |
| 40  | Counseling & Educations Svcs. (TCCES)     | 149  |
| 42  | Pretrial Services                         | 153  |
| 43  | Juvenile Public Defender                  | 155  |
| 45  | Juvenile Probation                        | 157  |
| 47  | Emergency Services                        | 164  |
| 49  | Transportation & Natural Resources (TNR)  | 183  |
| 54  | Civil Service Commission                  | 166  |
| 55  | Criminal Justice Planning                 | 167  |
| 57  | Records Mgmt. & Comm. Resources (RMCR)    | 242  |
| 58  | Health and Human Services Dept. (HHS)     | 171  |
| 59  | Emergency Medical Services                | 169  |
| 90  | Centralized Computer Services (ITS)       | 231  |
| 91  | Centralized Rent & Utilities (Facilities) | 236  |
| 93  | Civil Courts Legally Mandated Fees        | 91   |
| 94  | Criminal Courts Legally Mandated Fees     | 102  |

**Departments by Name:**

| Name                                      | No. | Page |
|---|-----|------|
| Centralized Computer Services (ITS)       | 90  | 231  |
| Centralized Rent & Utilities (Facilities) | 91  | 236  |
| Civil Courts                              | 22  | 88   |
| Civil Courts Legally Mandated Fees        | 93  | 91   |
| Civil Service Commission                  | 54  | 166  |
| Commissioner - Precinct 1                 | 02  | 201  |
| Commissioner - Precinct 2                 | 03  | 203  |
| Commissioner - Precinct 3                 | 04  | 205  |
| Commissioner - Precinct 4                 | 05  | 207  |
| Community Supervision & Corrections       | 39  | 147  |
| Constable - Precinct 1                    | 31  | 125  |
| Constable - Precinct 2                    | 32  | 128  |
| Constable - Precinct 3                    | 33  | 130  |
| Constable - Precinct 4                    | 34  | 132  |
| Constable - Precinct 5                    | 35  | 134  |
| Cooperative Extension Service             | 18  | 176  |
| Counseling & Educations Svcs. (TCCES)     | 40  | 149  |
| County Attorney                           | 19  | 71   |
| County Auditor                            | 06  | 209  |
| County Clerk                              | 20  | 75   |
| County Judge                              | 01  | 198  |
| County Treasurer                          | 07  | 212  |
| Criminal Courts                           | 24  | 98   |
| Criminal Courts Legally Mandated Fees     | 94  | 102  |
| Criminal Justice Planning                 | 55  | 167  |
| Dispute Resolution Center                 | 36  | 137  |
| District Attorney                         | 23  | 94   |
| District Clerk                            | 21  | 83   |
| Emergency Medical Services                | 59  | 169  |
| Emergency Services                        | 47  | 164  |
| Facilities Management                     | 14  | 232  |
| General Administration                    | 10  | 218  |
| Health and Human Services Dept. (HHS)     | 58  | 171  |
| Historical Commission                     | 17  | 241  |
| Human Resource Management                 | 11  | 220  |
| Information & Telecommunication Sys (ITS) | 12  | 227  |
| Justice of Peace - Precinct 1             | 26  | 107  |
| Justice of Peace - Precinct 2             | 27  | 114  |
| Justice of Peace - Precinct 3             | 28  | 116  |
| Justice of Peace - Precinct 4             | 29  | 119  |
| Justice of Peace - Precinct 5             | 30  | 122  |
| Juvenile Probation                        | 45  | 157  |
| Juvenile Public Defender                  | 43  | 155  |
| Medical Examiner                          | 38  | 145  |
| Planning and Budget                       | 09  | 216  |
| Pretrial Services                         | 42  | 153  |
| Probate Court                             | 25  | 103  |
| Purchasing & Inventory Management         | 15  | 239  |
| Records Mgmt. & Comm. Resources (RMCR)    | 57  | 242  |
| Sheriff's Department                      | 37  | 138  |
| Tax Assessor - Collector                  | 08  | 214  |
| Transportation & Natural Resources (TNR)  | 49  | 183  |
| Veterans Services Office                  | 16  | 174  |

**PREFACE FOR READERS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE STRUCTURE AND ROLE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Texas County government focuses primarily on the judicial system, health and social service delivery, law enforcement, and upkeep of County maintained roads. In contrast to other parts of the country, Texas counties seldom have responsibility for schools, water and sewer systems, electric utilities, and commercial airports. County governments in Texas have no ordinance-making powers other than those explicitly granted by state legislative action.

The state's 254 counties have similar organizational features: a governing body (the Commissioners Court) consisting of one member elected County-wide (the County Judge), and four Commissioners elected from geographically unique precincts. The County Judge is so named because he or she often has actual judicial responsibility. In urban counties, the County Judge is primarily an executive and administrator, in addition to being the presiding officer of the Commissioners Court. Other elected officials in each county are the County and District Clerks, the County Tax Assessor-Collector, the County Sheriff, a District and/or a County Attorney, the County Treasurer, and one or more Constables. All judges (District Judges, County Court-at-Law Judges, and Justices of the Peace) are also elected. The State District Judges in each county select the County Auditor, who serves as the chief financial officer for the County.

The Commissioners Court serves as both the legislative and executive branch of county government, and exercises budgetary authority over virtually all county departments, including those headed by other elected officials. The high number of elected officials, including many with judicial authority, creates an organizational structure unlike more familiar public sector designs, which usually contain a Chief Executive or Operating Officer and a Board that focus on broad policy matters.

County services in Texas are financed primarily by (a) an ad valorem tax on real property and business inventory, and (b) a complex array of fees, fines, service charges and state payments. The County Commissioners Court sets the property tax rate annually, subject to a public hearing. Most of the other revenue sources are established in state law and may be changed only through legislative action.

**THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF TRAVIS COUNTY**

This Fiscal Year 04 Adopted Budget is organized around the following four basic program areas:

- **Justice and Public Safety**
- **Health, Human and Veterans Services**
- **Transportation and Natural Resources**
- **General Government and Support Services**

The next page shows the approved organization chart for Travis County as of the adoption of this budget.

**THE VISION, VALUES AND MISSION OF TRAVIS COUNTY**

The following statements have been developed by the Commissioners Court in an effort to describe Travis County's vision, values and mission.

**A. The Vision for Travis County**

We envision an open, diverse community where all people are safe and healthy and can fulfill their hopes and dreams; one which provides a good quality of life and protects our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.

**B. The Values that Guide Travis County Government**

Taking responsibility, public trust and accountability, good customer service, excellence in performance, sound fiscal policy, respect for the individual, honesty and openness, caring, collaboration and cooperation.

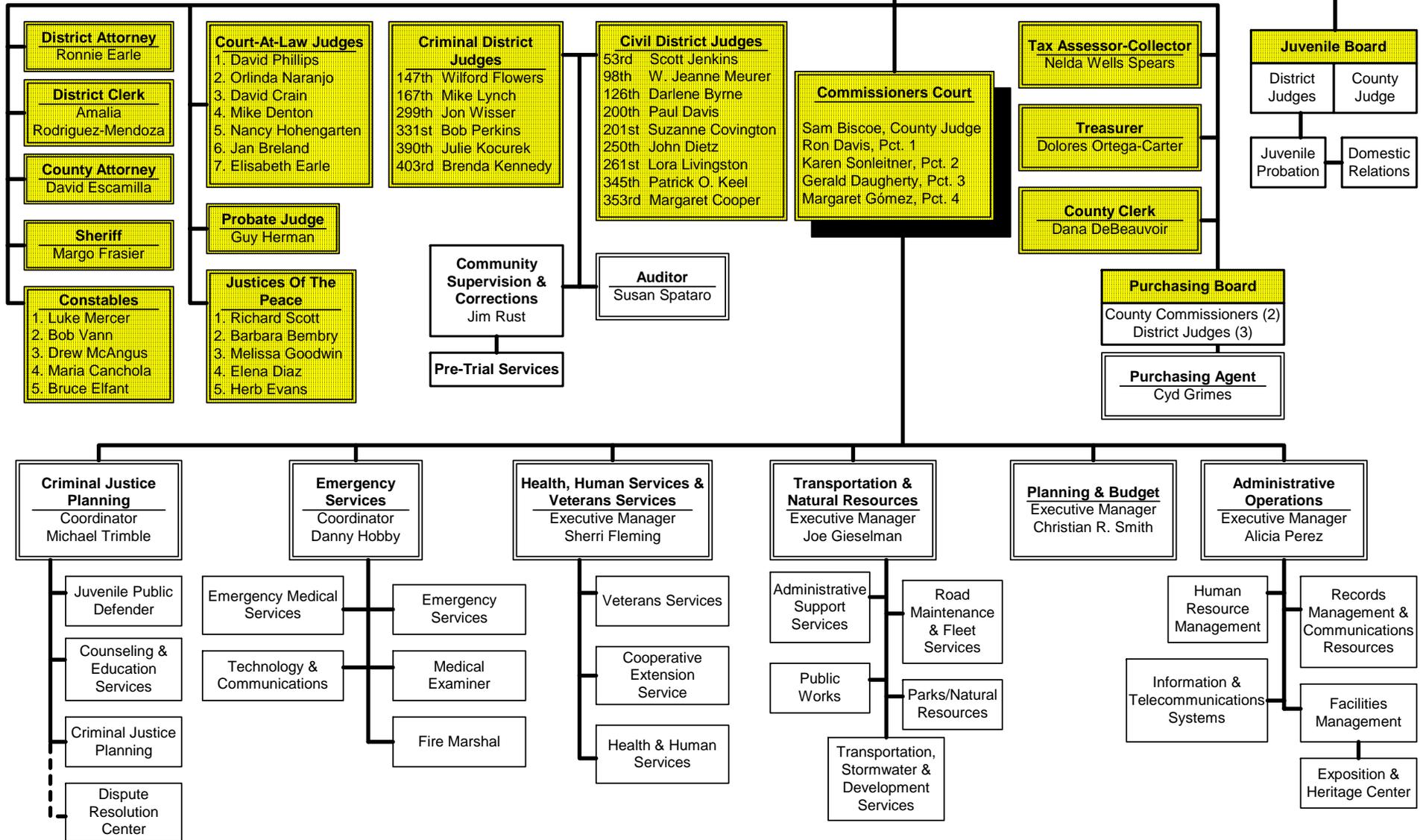
**C. The Mission of Travis County**

For the people of Travis County, our mission is to preserve health, provide a safety net for the needy, ensure the public safety, facilitate the resolution of disputes, foster an efficient transportation system, promote recreational opportunities, and manage county resources in order to meet the changing needs of the community in an effective manner.



# TRAVIS COUNTY

## Travis County Voters

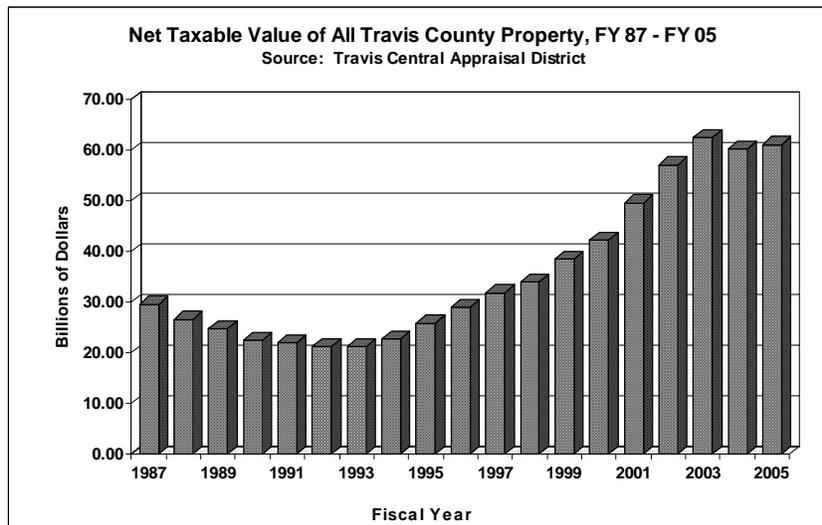


Elected Officials

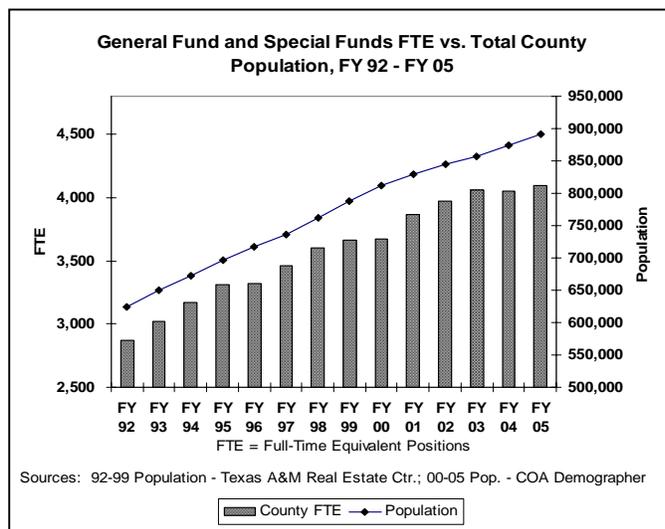
SECTION I  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**I. BACKGROUND TO THE BUDGET SETTING PROCESS**

Since FY 92, Travis County has experienced annual growth in its property tax base. After annual decreases between FY 87 and FY 92, the certified property tax base steadily increased from \$21.2 billion in FY 92 to \$62.4 billion in FY 03, as reflected in the chart below. However, this chart also shows that this trend of an increasing tax base stopped in FY 04, with a decrease from \$62.4 billion to \$60.2 billion in FY 04. Total property values including new construction will increase slightly to \$61.1 billion in FY 05.

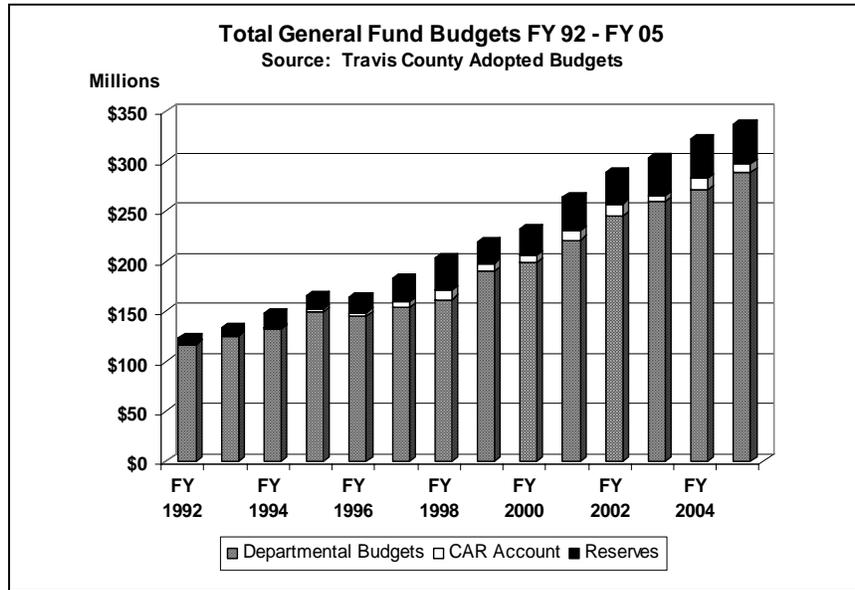


The following comparisons use FY 92 as a baseline, as this is the year when overall property values began their increases after the value losses of the late 1980's. In the last 13 years the General Fund has increased over \$213 million (from \$123.4 million in FY 92 to \$336.9 million in FY 05). This represents an increase of 173%. During this same time frame, the County's tax rate has decreased from \$0.5762 to \$0.4872. The following two charts show the changes since FY 92 in total Full Time Equivalent employees (FTE), County population, and General Fund budgets.



Since FY 92, the County's workforce has increased from 2,870 FTE to 4,097.2 FTE in FY 05, or about 43%. This is a 2.8% annual increase, and essentially matches the annual increase in the County's population since that time at about 2.8%. While County staffing levels have increased proportionately with population growth, County budgets have increased at much higher rates. This reflects increases in personnel costs and programmatic growth.

The growth in the economy and property tax base has now slowed, as is the case throughout the nation. The Chief Appraiser for the Travis Central Appraisal District has indicated that commercial properties once again experienced a decrease in their value for FY 05. In addition, the average homestead value increased 3.5% from \$191,240 to \$197,874. This means that once again, there will be a shifting of overall tax burden from the commercial sector to the residential sector.



Thus, it should come as no surprise that key themes of this FY 05 Adopted Budget are continued restraint and caution, the use of existing resources to meet new needs, and the limitations on funding for new expenditures except for those that are either necessary to meet contractual, statutory or programmatic obligations or that have new non-tax revenue tied to them. A prudent approach has been taken toward both funding increases and decreases. While the County is not in a fiscal crisis, this Adopted Budget is predicated on the belief that it is in the County's best interest to ensure that there are appropriate "shock absorbers" to provide flexibility for future conditions.

**II. BASIC COMPONENTS OF THE FY 05 ADOPTED BUDGET**

**FY 05 ADOPTED BUDGET - ALL FUNDS**

|                         | <b>Adopted<br/>FY 04 Budget</b> | <b>Adopted<br/>FY05 Budget</b> | <b>\$<br/>Change</b> | <b>%<br/>Change</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund            | \$322,883,952                   | \$336,887,005                  | \$14,003,053         | 4.3%                |
| Road and Bridge Fund    | 24,665,226                      | 24,325,261                     | (339,965)            | (1.4%)              |
| Debt Service Fund       | 70,354,719                      | 68,730,293                     | (1,624,426)          | (2.3%)              |
| Internal Service Funds: |                                 |                                |                      |                     |
| Risk Management Fund    | 10,961,555                      | 12,809,739                     | 1,848,184            | 16.9%               |
| Employee Insurance Fund | 31,585,857                      | 38,342,713                     | 6,756,856            | 21.4%               |
| Other Funds (1)         | 32,514,439                      | 23,829,436                     | (8,685,003)          | (26.7%)             |
| Less Transfers          | (6,736,431)                     | (10,543,607)                   | (3,807,176)          | (56.5)%             |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$486,229,317</b>            | <b>\$494,380,840</b>           | <b>\$8,151,523</b>   | <b>1.7%</b>         |

(1) Excludes the two internal service funds (Risk Management Fund and Employee's Insurance Fund) but includes Other Funds Not Approved by Commissioners Court.

A recapitulation of the FY 05 Adopted Budget is found on pages 30 – 32 in Appendix I, Table 1. The FY 05 Adopted Budget total for all funds is \$494,380,840, compared to the previous year's FY 04 Adopted Operating Budget for all funds of \$486,229,317.

**A. General Fund**

The remainder of this Executive Summary focuses on the General Fund budget, which is the primary platform for operational and policy decision making in the County. The FY 05 Adopted Budget contains General Fund expenditures and reserves totaling \$336,887,005. This represents a \$14,003,053 increase, or 4.3% above the FY 04 General Fund Adopted Budget of \$322,883,952. General Fund revenue is based on the Auditor's Final Revenue Certification, and is largely composed of property taxes.

The pie charts found on pages 35 and 36 in Appendix I, Charts 3 and 4, show the sources and uses of funds in the General Fund for FY 05.

**1. Departmental Budgets in the Preliminary Budget**

Appendix I contains a comparison of General Fund departmental budgets from FY 03 through the FY 05 Adopted Budget. This is shown in Table 2 on page 37. The Adopted Budgets for all departments, excluding CAR amounts, increased from \$259.7 million in FY 03 to \$271.9 million in FY 04. The FY 05 Adopted Budgets for all departments total \$288,874,929, excluding CAR amounts. The following table summarizes the major components of the General Fund budget.

|   | Adopted Budget FY04  | Adopted Budget FY 05 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance                              | \$43,746,885         | 50,435,953           |
| Property Taxes                                      | 231,624,223          | 230,596,831          |
| Other Revenue                                       | 47,512,844           | 55,854,221           |
| <b>Final Revenue Estimate</b>                       | <b>\$322,883,952</b> | <b>336,887,005</b>   |
| Unallocated Reserves                                | \$33,912,751         | 34,757,304           |
| Capital Acquisition Resources Acct. (CAR)           | 10,830,126           | 9,132,960            |
| Emergency Allocated Reserve (jail overcrowding)     | 1,786,554            | 200,000              |
| Regular - Allocated Reserve                         | 1,941,373            | 2,209,943            |
| FACTS Reserve – operations & one-time capital       |                      | 976,992              |
| Other Reserves                                      | 2,470,669            | 734,877              |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                                    | <b>\$50,941,473</b>  | <b>\$48,012,076</b>  |
| <b>Departmental Base Budgets</b>                    | <b>\$259,458,879</b> | <b>269,805,020</b>   |
| <b>Wage Requirements:</b>                           |                      |                      |
| Health Benefits Increases                           | \$5,750,000          | 3,212,077            |
| Rank & File Compensation                            |                      | 5,920,125            |
| POPS Compensation                                   |                      | 2,844,366            |
| Career Ladders                                      |                      | 272,677              |
| Elected officials' salaries (+ Assoc. Judges)       | 273,327              | 512,687              |
| Change in retirement contribution                   | 355,820              | (258,107)            |
| Skill-based pay for Sheriff's Office                |                      | 122,083              |
| \$10 per hour minimum wage                          |                      | 104,585              |
| <b>Sub-Total Wages and Benefits</b>                 | <b>\$6,379,147</b>   | <b>12,730,493</b>    |
| <b>Total Reductions</b>                             | <b>(\$5,733,207)</b> |                      |
| <b>Hospital District Items</b>                      |                      |                      |
| Base Target Budget reduction for Hospital District  |                      | (7,723,400)          |
| Hospital District Reserves transfer                 |                      | 1,728,231            |
| County Attorney Hospital District Team              |                      | 255,962              |
| HHS employees for Hospital District                 |                      | 252,913              |
| <b>Other Major Highlights:</b>                      |                      |                      |
| EMS interlocal                                      | 171,888              | 1,616,957            |
| Combined Comm. Center and Radio System              | 1,382,357            | 859,201              |
| Balcones Canyonland TIF                             | 1,027,586            | 857,068              |
| Intermediate Sanctions Center – Juvenile Prob.      | 0                    | 826,409              |
| Information Systems Support                         | 347,811              | 723,360              |
| After School Program                                | 0                    | 388,718              |
| Fuel increases                                      | 109,156              | 352,050              |
| Risk Mgt. Maintenance of Current Effort             | 153,400              | 306,551              |
| Environmental Enforcement Programs                  | 0                    | 305,983              |
| Opening New Parks                                   | 583,555              | 290,215              |
| Facilities maintenance, repair and other new bldgs. | 609,501              | 296,321              |
| Justices of the Peace and Constables                | 22,009               | 283,705              |
| Basic Needs – Health and Human Services             | 150,000              | 250,000              |
| Fire Marshall business plan                         | 0                    | 235,811              |
| Restoring Frozen FTE – Health/Human Serv.           | 0                    | 229,366              |
| Indigent Attorneys' Fees                            | 1,100,000            | 200,000              |
| Other increases among various depts.                | 6,330,397            | 3,803,995            |
| <b>Total Increases</b>                              | <b>11,687,660</b>    | <b>6,339,416</b>     |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                                | <b>\$322,883,952</b> | <b>336,887,005</b>   |
| <b>Net</b>  | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>             |

**2. Personnel Changes**

A total of 102.97 new regular FTE are added to the FY 05 General Fund, and 26.30 FTE are removed, for a net increase of 76.67 FTE. Of the net 76.67 new FTE, a total of 24.5 FTE are associated with new revenue, 18.12 FTE are a switch in funding from grant funds to the General Fund (due to a loss of grant funds), 8.55 FTE were internally funded within existing budgets, and 8 FTE are associated with the voter approved East Metro Park. The following table reflects a summary of position changes in the General Fund and Other Funds. The details on each position are contained in Appendix I on page 39 under “Position Changes List”, Table 3.

**General Fund Position Changes**

| <b>General Fund</b>             | <b>Added</b>  | <b>Removed</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Revenue Related                 | 24.50         | 0.0            | 24.50        |
| Fund Switch                     | 21.82         | (3.7)          | 18.12        |
| Internally Funded               | 12.15         | (3.6)          | 8.55         |
| East Metro Park                 | 8.00          | 0.0            | 8.00         |
| Court-related                   | 11.00         | (4.0)          | 7.00         |
| Other                           | 14.50         | (8.0)          | 6.50         |
| Sheriff Law Enforcement Package | 11.00         | (7.0)          | 4.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>102.97</b> | <b>(26.30)</b> | <b>76.67</b> |

**Other Funds Position Changes**

| <b>Other Funds (1)</b>       | <b>Added</b> | <b>Removed</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue Related              | 1.0          | 0.00           | 1.00           |
| Wellness Clinic              | 3.0          | 0.00           | 3.00           |
| Due to new Hospital District | 0.0          | (27.35)        | (27.35)        |
| Fund Switch                  | 3.2          | (2.00)         | 1.20           |
| Internally funded            | 1.2          | (1.50)         | (0.30)         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>8.4</b>   | <b>(30.85)</b> | <b>(22.45)</b> |

(1) Other Funds are the Road and Bridge Fund, along with the Records Management, County Clerk Archival, FQHC, and Self Insurance Funds.

**3. Creation of a Hospital District**

On May 15, 2004 voters approved the creation of a Hospital District as a new taxing authority in Travis County. This means that certain health-related expenditures that were previously incurred by the City of Austin and by Travis County are to be the responsibility of the Hospital District. FY 05 will be the first full fiscal year of the Hospital District’s existence, and the budgets for both the County and the City for certain health-related expenses were reduced in FY 05.

The Commissioners Court and the City Council appointed experienced individuals to a Hospital District Board of Managers. Each governing body identified the amount of funds spent in FY 04 for certain health-related expenditures that will be spent by the

Hospital District rather than the County or City in FY05. The County and City then reduced their respective tax rates accordingly. The law requires that the County and City FY 05 tax rate reductions be based on FY 04 expenditures. An independent audit validated these reduction amounts.

The City reduced its tax rate by \$.0635 and the County reduced its tax rate by \$.0144, reflecting their certified FY 04 projected costs of indigent health care (\$8,695,117 for Travis County). The new tax rate for the Hospital District is the total of these two reductions, equal to \$.0779. In addition, the County also transferred to the Hospital District a total of \$1,728,232 in one-time resources as part of an effort to ensure the Hospital District budget began with sufficient reserves in FY 05.

Pursuant to statute, the Travis County Attorney will provide legal representation for the new Hospital District. The Adopted Budget includes \$269,414 (\$255,962 General Fund plus \$13,452 in capital resources) for a legal team totaling 2.5 FTE to serve not only the Hospital District's legal needs but also to support Travis County legal services. The Hospital District will reimburse the County \$170,000 for providing this service in FY 05. Another \$252,913 was appropriated to Health and Human Services for 6 existing County employees supporting the indigent health care program who will be funded through an interlocal with the City of Austin.

#### **4. Special Purpose Reserves**

##### **a. Fines, Fees and Assessments Reserve**

Programs in other Texas counties have demonstrated that the creation of a centralized professional collections unit can considerably increase the amounts of court ordered fines and fees collected. This endeavor has the potential to be of considerable benefit, allowing the Judges' orders to be followed, and the County to successfully collect the revenue that is due. During FY 04, a Fines and Fees Task Force was established by the Commissioners Court to broaden the participation of various departments in improving how court-ordered fines and fees are assessed, accounted, and collected. The recommendations of this Task Force have not been formally made to the Commissioners Court by the time this budget was adopted. Due to the timing and complexity of this matter, a special Reserve for Fines, Fees, and Assessments has been established totaling \$150,000, which is intended to provide the necessary resources for this program in FY 05.

##### **b. Two Reserves for IJS/FACTS**

The County will be installing the Fully Automated Court Tracking System (FACTS) during FY 05. This system is a part of the Integrated Justice System (IJS) and will provide the basic data management support and computerized infrastructure for the court-related offices in the Criminal Justice System, including the County Clerk, the District Clerk, all the Justices of the Peace, and the Criminal and Civil Courts. The FACTS system has experienced a variety of delays and implementation challenges over the last few years. A variety of offices have expressed concerns about the impact of the

system on their staffing and workflow, and have made budget requests for additional staff. However, it is still early to know with precision how much will be required.

A \$654,792 FACTS Implementation Reserve has been established. This reserve will provide operating resources in FY 05 as more becomes known about the operational requirements of the system, along with the degree to which additional staff and new protocols are needed in various offices.

A separate \$322,200 Capital Reserve for augmentations to the FACTS System has also been established. This reserve is outside of the Capital Acquisition Resources account. The Information and Telecommunications Services (ITS) department has identified potential one-time cost augmentations to the FACTS system that are intended to improve integration effectiveness and to increase functionality and efficiency in the baseline system. Requests to use this Reserve will allow the ITS department to more fully provide the Commissioners Court with visibility and oversight on this important system implementation project.

**c. Security Reserve**

A \$200,000 Security Reserve has been established in the Adopted Budget. This is intended for the Commissioners Court to foster improved security in targeted facilities in FY 05 through a coordinated plan involving the user departments along with the Sheriff's Office and Facilities Management.

**d. Records Storage Reserve**

The County is establishing a new centralized Records Center at 5501 Airport Boulevard for the most active county files. A reserve of \$145,000 is included in the FY 05 Adopted Budget. This reserve will accommodate any special one-time costs related to this new program, along with expected higher costs from a new contract for records storage while this new center is being developed.

**e. Solid Waste Management Reserve**

This reserve was established in FY 04 for one-time solid waste management expenditures. A total of \$2,000 was utilized in FY 04 for solid waste issues. The remaining \$98,000 is being rebudgeted in FY 05.

**f. Exposition Center Subsidy Reserve**

In FY 04, the Commissioners Court approved a supplement from one-time General Fund resources, totaling \$138,690 to subsidize the Exposition Center operations. Such resources were to provide the department the time and flexibility to grow its customer base, increase its revenue stream, and cover increased utility costs associated with the Court approved air conditioning system. Such support is expected to again be necessary in FY 05. A special reserve totaling \$141,877 has been established in the event further support is required for the operations of the Travis County Exposition Center.

**h. Emergency Reserve - Jail Overcrowding**

In FY 02, FY 03, and FY 04, the Commissioners Court established an "Emergency Reserve" in recognition that both the national and local economies had slowed down and showed signs of a potential downturn. This reserve provided an opportunity for the Court to meet a variety of unanticipated FY 02 mid-year needs, and has provided a safety net for FY 03 and FY 04. A similar reserve is included in the FY 05 Adopted Budget; however, it has a more specific purpose than in previous years. This reserve is to provide resources in the event the size of the inmate population begins to climb at the jail and funds are necessary to send inmates outside Travis County or for other types of jail support. The amount of this reserve is \$200,000, which is \$1,586,554 lower than the level established in FY 04.

**5. Major FY 05 Funding Issues**

The following major funding issues are included in the FY 05 Adopted Budget. Many of these are essentially "Maintenance of Current Effort" requirements or have associated revenue to support them. Others are targeted for specific programmatic needs. They address contractual and programmatic requirements or prior commitments of the Commissioners Court, such as various interlocal agreements, unit cost increases in critical operating expenses, and other contractual and programmatic obligations. The largest of these increases are outlined below.

**a. Emergency Medical Services Base Contract with the City of Austin**

Travis County partners with the City of Austin for the provision of EMS services in the County. The County's cost to continue to provide this service will increase by \$1,616,957 in FY 05. \$800,000 of this increase is offset by additional revenue resulting from a new methodology for determining the costs of this interlocal contract. Other increases are due to an increase in the costs of health insurance and compensation increases for City of Austin employees, including 3.5% for performance based pay, a further 2% increase for paramedics, and increased funds for overtime.

**b. Combined Transportation, Emergency & Communications Center (CTECC) & Radio System**

During FY 04, the new Combined Transportation, Emergency & Communications Center (CTECC) and the new 800 MHz Radio System became fully operational. These new systems provide a modern and consolidated emergency response system Countywide. For the County, an additional \$859,201 is needed in FY 05 to operate the CTECC/Radio system, primarily due to maintenance contracts for the radios and electronic equipment. These funds represent a contractually mandated requirement if the County is to continue with the CTECC, the Regional Radio System (RRS), and the Mobile Data Communications (MDC) agreements with the City of Austin and other partner agencies. The County has invested over \$22.6 million dollars in these systems. Each agency's share of the operating costs for the facility is based on the percentage of the CTECC/Radio system each user is expected to utilize.

**c. Transfer to Balcones Canyonland Preservation Fund**

A total of \$857,068 has been added to the Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) Adopted Budget for an increased transfer to the Balcones Canyonland Preservation (BCP) Fund from the General Fund. This amount represents the increased estimated tax revenue in FY 05 from new construction on BCP lands as compared to prior year tax revenues. The total FY 05 transfer from the General Fund is \$3,956,944.

**d. Opening New Park**

Travis County will be opening the East Metro Park, beginning in June 2005. In FY 00 the Commissioners Court approved certain funding levels at the Southeast Metro Park and the Northeast Metro Park, both of which opened in that year. The Adopted Budget includes \$290,215 to support the East Metro Park at the same staffing level originally approved for the other two urban parks. This includes 6 Maintenance Technicians (including 2 seniors) along with a Park Ranger and a Park Operations/Maintenance Supervisor. In addition, a total of \$153,900 is included in one-time capital for the East Metro Park from the Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) Account, as well as \$204,600 in existing Certificates of Obligation for a new park maintenance building, \$9,810 in related computer equipment in ITS, and \$182,600 for new mowers funded from a proposed FY 05 Certificate of Obligation.

**e. Information Systems Support**

A variety of professional service and maintenance agreement increases are included for information systems support requirements in the Information and Telecommunications System Department (ITS). These total \$723,360 and include:

- (a) Database Analyst to continue the Mapper Migration Project (\$67,470);
- (b) Implementation of the E Filing Project, first approved in FY 03 (\$338,022);
- (c) Various maintenance contract increases for existing hardware and software (\$259,552);
- (d) Evercom Contract liaison (\$25,001); and
- (e) Funds to support new Medical Examiner software (\$33,315).

**f. Fuel Cost Increases**

Increases in the price of gasoline have been widely publicized throughout the country. This affects the County's fleet of automobiles and trucks, just as it affects those who purchase gas privately. While Travis County has a special contract for fuels, it too has been affected by recent price increases. A total of \$352,050 is included in the Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources in order to fund these price increases, along with a projected increase in the annual number of gallons used.

**g. Maintenance and Repair Increases**

Facilities Management has received an increase of \$160,671 for routine maintenance at County facilities. This amount will allow the department to continue to maintain County facilities at the current standard and was based on the department's projected shortfall in FY 04. In addition, the department has received an additional \$135,650 for other one-time and ongoing maintenance projects such as the replacement of county seating in

the Commissioners Courtroom, a County parking lot maintenance program, and an annual signage program, along with other special projects.

**h. Insurance Premiums**

The County's costs in unemployment insurance are forecasted to increase \$85,000 in the next fiscal year (from \$260,000 to \$345,000). In addition, purchased property insurance premiums will increase by \$221,551.

**i. Community Supervision and Corrections Financial System**

During FY 04, the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) received one-time funding of \$208,000 for a new CSCD financial system from the Corrections Software Corporation (CSC). This software is specialized for CSCD operations and is vital to the department's ongoing ability to manage the payments received by individuals on probation. This system was first put into place during FY 03 and the system has worked well throughout FY 04. It has become clear that keeping this system will be necessary for CSCD to meet its responsibilities in the future and \$208,000 is included within the ongoing operations budget for this department.

**j. Justice of the Peace Increases**

Workload in the Justices of the Peace Precincts 2 and 3 continues to grow. During the FY 05 budget process, the two offices requested 3.5 FTEs, to help address the added workload. The Auditor's Office certified revenue sufficient to cover the costs of the new FTEs. The Adopted Budget includes an additional .5 FTE and \$13,748 in JP 2 along with 3 FTEs and \$96,766 in JP 3. Associated computer equipment totaling \$6,060 is budgeted in ITS. Other Maintenance of Current Effort and one-time requests budgeted in the Justice of the Peace offices include \$5,054 in office furniture and \$56 in benefits corrections for Precinct 1, and \$5,078 for court interpreter certification fees and one-time overtime pay for the move to the new office building for Precinct 3. In addition, JP 3 was budgeted \$30,000 for a pilot court fines and fees collection project. Under this project, JP 3 will refer certain cases to a collection contractor. The budget is supported by additional revenue certified by the County Auditor.

In addition to the above increases, a total of \$70,250 was appropriated to all of the Justice of the Peace Courts (\$14,050 each) for 50 days of relief judge time per Judge. The Relief Judges will fill in for the Justices of the Peace when they are away from the bench for training or on leave. This should keep case backlogs from developing. The relief time will also be used to help the JP's more effectively deal with heavy civil case dockets.

**k. Constable Increases**

Constable, Precinct 4 requested an additional Court Clerk position to conduct research on warrants and to process the necessary paperwork and data entry. The Auditor's Office has certified sufficient revenue to cover the additional cost. The Adopted Budget includes an additional FTE and \$34,040 in the Constable 4 budget along with \$2,870 in computer equipment budgeted in ITS.

Constable, Precinct 5 received an additional Deputy position to serve as a bailiff in JP 5 and to work warrants that are no longer being worked by the Texas Department of Public Safety. This position is partially supported by additional certified revenue and will cost \$44,287 in additional budget. The department has agreed to internally fund \$3,854 in personnel and operating costs and \$3,445 in computer equipment to make up the difference between the total cost and the new certified revenue. Other increases include \$6,352 in Precinct 2 for replacement safety vests, and additional employee auto mileage reimbursement funds for the accounting staff. The \$2,000 in auto mileage was subsequently centralized in JP 2 as the Constable/Justice of the Peace accounting function was centralized from 8 offices to one. Finally, with Constable Precinct 4's concurrence, the Precinct 4 budget was reduced by \$23,926 related to the Absent Student Assistance Program (ASAP) as that program is no longer active.

### **I. Indigent Attorneys' Fees**

In 2001, the Fair Defense Act (FDA) reformed the way court-appointed legal counsel is provided to indigent defendants. Based on FDA requirements, the Criminal District and County Court-at-Law Judges adopted new fee schedules for attorneys representing indigents as well as standards to determine indigency of defendants effective January 1, 2002. These changes standardized the way defendants are assigned County-paid defense. These changes along with increased dispositions and other factors have resulted in increased Indigent Attorney Fee expenditures. Criminal Indigent Attorney Fees are expected to require an additional \$200,000 in FY 05 due to increases in the number of attorney appointments and the expectation that new Jail Overcrowding Initiatives will continue to speed up the processing of criminal cases. With this increase, a total of \$2,329,495 (\$1,029,495 in FY 03, \$1,100,000 in FY 04, and \$200,000 in FY 05) in on-going resources have been added to the Criminal and Civil Indigent Attorney Fee budgets since FY 02.

### **m. Environmental Enforcement Programs**

The Adopted Budget includes a total of \$371,931 for environmental enforcement programs in the County Attorney's Office and in Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR). This amount includes a total of \$199,460 (\$164,422 General Fund plus \$35,038 in capital resources) for three County Attorney Investigator positions to assist the office's Environmental Enforcement Program. The amount for the County Attorney's Office includes full year funding for two FTE and partial year funding for another FTE. These positions will investigate environmental code violations for water pollution, illegal dumping, and air pollution, which will promote a cleaner and safer Travis County. These positions generate revenue and are anticipated to pay for themselves in future years. This will fill a need in the community as other agencies have cut or reduced environmental enforcement in recent years. The fuel and maintenance budget for TNR was also increased by \$3,750 to account for one new recommended vehicle and another vehicle that will be used by the program.

In addition, a total of \$137,811 was approved in General Fund resources and \$30,910 in CAR resources (including \$2,500 for fuel and maintenance for a new vehicle) for two

new FTE in the Transportation and Natural Resources Department to support civil enforcement including landfill compliance and air quality control.

**n. Increased Delinquent Tax Collections**

The Adopted Budget includes additional support for delinquent tax collections in the County Attorney's Office. These additional resources will primarily be directed toward non-adjudicated delinquent business personal property accounts handled in the Justice of the Peace Courts. The Adopted Budget contains \$150,489 (\$137,840 General Fund plus \$12,649 in capital resources) for the County Attorney Tax Collection Division Team, which includes funding for 2.5 FTE. These figures also include space-related costs budgeted in other departments. The County Auditor's Office has certified sufficient revenue to cover the cost of this effort.

**o. Intermediate Sanctions Center**

In November of 1997 a bond election was passed by the voters of Travis County to approve the construction of an Intermediate Sanctions Center. This center became operational in 2001. Under the Commissioners Court approved Master Plan for Juvenile Probation, the staffing for the ISC was planned to be 100% funded from the General Fund since it opened in 2001. However, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission has provided approximately \$775,000 to operate the ISC since FY 2000, which eliminated some of the need for General Fund support of the program. However, with the reductions imposed in the last legislative session, the Juvenile Probation funding has been significantly reduced.

The FY 05 Adopted Budget includes \$826,409 to move 18 existing FTE to the General Fund, formerly supported by the State grant funds. This action is consistent with the original staffing plan for the ISC and will allow the department to utilize the ISC at its maximum capacity of 118 slots.

**p. StarFlight Increases**

In FY 04 Commissioners Court approved a principle that the county employees of the StarFlight program would receive pay increases as if they were City of Austin employees, rather than follow the policies of other county employees. The City of Austin has funded a 5.5% pay increase, totaling 2% across the board and 3.5% performance based pay, effective October 1. The FY 05 cost of applying these pay increases to the StarFlight staff is \$40,005 (including a corresponding increase in overtime pay). Also HRMD has recommended that the StarFlight Pilots, who routinely receive overtime, should move from their current status (where they receive straight time for overtime hours) to completely non-exempt. This change will require the addition of \$41,600 in additional overtime.

The Adopted Budget also includes \$97,410 in operating increases, of which \$76,400 is required only in FY 05. These increases are \$10,260 to restore a one-time FY 04 reduction to uniform purchases, \$750 for a pilot physical, \$12,000 to connect the StarFlight hanger to the City of Austin computer system, \$64,400 to install night vision equipment for the helicopters, and \$10,000 for a new human patient simulator.

**q. Family Violence Prosecution Team**

The Adopted Budget includes \$241,830 (\$223,820 General Fund plus \$18,010 in capital resources) for the County Attorney's Family Violence Prosecution Team. These resources will provide 4 FTE to assist the office's support of the Family Violence Court (County Court-at-Law #4) and are intended to reduce the pending jury trial caseload for this specialized court.

**r. Criminal Courts Staff Attorney**

The Adopted Budget includes \$103,323 (\$99,418 General Fund plus \$3,905 in capital resources) for the Criminal Courts' Staff Attorney. This position will primarily assist the six Criminal District Court Judges on legal research and opinion writing on various Criminal Court cases and issues.

**s. Fire Marshal Business Plan**

The FY 05 Commissioners Court approved a business plan for the Fire Marshal's office that includes the adoption of a Fire Code. The proposed code would have additional inspection standards and enforcement tools. In order to enforce the requirements of a Fire Code, the Commissioners Court approved 3 additional FTE and associated equipment in the Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Marshal's office received \$205,346 in on-going funding, \$30,465 in one-time operating costs as well as \$238,045 in capital needs.

**t. Cold Case Detectives – Sheriff's Office**

The Cold Case Unit in the Sheriff's Office is composed of two detectives at an annual cost of \$153,431. It was initially established in FY 04 as a pilot program with internal Sheriff's Office funding. It was established permanently for FY 05 and is designed to immediately reduce open unresolved homicides dating back many years. The unit will also work on other cases that require further investigation to determine the type of closure.

**u. After School Program**

The Court approved a total of \$388,718 for an After School Program. This increase consists of \$79,884 for two instructional specialist positions and associated operating costs in Cooperative Extension and \$308,834 in contractual services in the Health and Human Services Department. This program will provide academic assistance, recreational opportunities, and community involvement for at-risk middle school students. This funding extends a pilot program begun in FY04 to May 2005.

**v. Basic Needs Coalition**

A total of \$250,000 is approved for Basic Needs services such as rent, mortgage, utility, and food assistance for County residents. In recent years, there has been an increased demand and cost for this assistance.

**w. Restoring funding reallocated to indigent health care**

In FY03 and FY04, the Health and Human Services and Veterans Services Department voluntarily froze positions and internally reallocated the resulting savings to the Rural Medical Assistance Program (RMAP). Because this program will transfer from the County to the new Hospital District in FY05, the Court restored \$229,366 to the HHSVS budget to fund three frozen and one new position. The four FTE are professional social service positions.

**x. Northridge Acres**

A total of \$139,450 was approved in Transportation and Natural Resources to provide assistance to the Northridge Acres Water Supply Corporation in order to complete water improvements in the Northridge Acres Subdivision.

**y. Assistance for children with emotional needs**

An addition of \$130,000 is provided for the TRIAD program, an initiative that provides comprehensive, family-centered services for children with severe emotional needs. This additional funding will address an increased demand for these services.

**z. Other Maintenance of Current Effort Requests**

There are a variety of other Maintenance of Current Effort Requests funded within the Adopted Budget. Those between \$20,000 and \$100,000 are outlined in the following table.

**Other General Fund Increases Between \$20,000 and \$100,000**

| <b>Department</b>                  | <b>Program or Function</b>   | <b>Cost</b> |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Tran./Nat'l Resources              | Stormwater Management program  | \$98,252    |
| Health/Human Serv.                 | Salary savings adjustment  | 90,000      |
| County Clerk                       | In-Court Support demands – Misdemeanor Records                                   | 80,456      |
| Records Mgt.                       | Postage and paper  | 75,000      |
| Tax Assessor-Collect.              | Staff to maintain tax collection revenue & meet mandates                         | 73,617      |
| Medical Examiner                   | Forensic Toxicologist and Laboratory Equipment                                   | 70,692      |
| Health/Human Serv.                 | Public Health Interlocal agreement requirements                                  | 67,782      |
| District Attorney                  | Court expenses for expert witness testimony                                      | 64,110      |
| Sheriff's Office & TNR             | Lake Travis ISD interlocal   | 63,582      |
| Juvenile Probation                 | Replace lost grant funds used for payment processing                             | 62,000      |
| Tax Assessor-Collector             | Staff for remote Tax Office locations  | 59,980      |
| Emergency Services                 | Emergency Management Planner   | 56,647      |
| Sheriff                            | CTECC Security   | 56,497      |
| Purchasing                         | Funding for a Diversity Study with City of Austin                                | 50,000      |
| District Clerk                     | I-Jury Automation  | 50,000      |
| General Admin.                     | Inter-municipal Rail District  | 49,500      |
| Sheriff                            | Mandatory annual regulatory jail tests   | 45,500      |
| Health/Human Serv.                 | Increase rates and demand for temporary employee interpretative services         | 39,881      |
| Sheriff                            | Courthouse Security Fund Transfer  | 38,677      |
| Tax Assessor-Collector             | Revenue neutral increase for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party equipment rental              | 35,900      |
| County Attorney                    | Bond Forfeiture Office staff   | 31,735      |
| Transport. & Nat'l Resources (TNR) | Fuel for County Attorney enforcement team and Sheriff's School Resource Officers | 30,587      |
| Facilities Mgt.                    | One-time cost of FTE neutral reorganization                                      | 27,298      |
| TNR                                | Interlocal agreement with LCRA to review environmental issues in Precinct 3      | 25,000      |
| County Clerk                       | Ad hoc miscellaneous elections equipment   | 22,849      |
| Health/Human Serv.                 | HIV Social Service contracts approved in May, 2004                               | 20,000      |

**B. Workforce Investment**

**1. Background**

Each year, the Commissioners Court determines whether there are resources to fund a variety of employee pay adjustments. From FY 97 through FY 99, the Commissioners Court funded an appropriation of either 3% or 4% of overall salary costs for rank and file employees eligible to receive Performance Based Pay. The FY 00 Adopted Budget contained a 1.5% increase for all General Fund employees eligible to receive

Performance Based Pay. For FY 01, the Adopted Budget contained a compensation reserve in the General Fund equal to 6% of each department's FY 00 Adopted Budget for salaries to meet a variety of compensation issues including Performance Based Pay. In FY 02 this amount was 5%. No Performance Based Pay was budgeted or awarded in FY 03 and FY 04.

In addition to performance based pay awards, the Commissioners Court was also able to fund scheduled increases to employees within the Peace Officer Pay Scale (POPS), along with increases to the POPS scale itself, special augmentations for skill based pay and targeted increases for Sheriff's Law Enforcement employees over multiple years.

This strategy of regular pay increases ended in FY03 for rank and file employees. Largely due to the upward spiraling trend of health costs, no performance based pay or other compensation increases were funded for rank and file employees, although members of the POPS scale were still able to receive their scheduled step increases as part of that program. For FY 04, neither the POPS scale employees nor rank and file received any compensation increases due to fiscal pressures throughout the county.

## **2. Compensation Increases**

The economic circumstances in FY 05 allow for reasonable compensation increases to be established. As a result, the Commissioners Court adopted a 4.0% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all rank and file employees. The Court appropriated another 1.75% for performance-based awards and other compensation needs, for a total 5.75% increase in FY 05. The funds in the General Fund appropriated for this purpose totaled \$5,920,125. As has been the case in prior years, other non-General Fund sources, (such as the Road and Bridge Fund or available grant funds) will fund the compensation increases for employees paid directly out of those funds. In addition, \$272,677 was appropriated to fund approved career ladder increases, and another \$104,585 was appropriated to ensure that no permanent full-time County employee is paid less than \$10 per hour.

In addition to rank and file increases, the Court approved a set of compensation increases for those employees on the Peace Officer Pay Scale (POPS). Corrections Officers received a 5% increase and all others (Sheriff's Law Enforcement, Constables, Investigators and Park Rangers) received 4%. Additional increases were made to Corrections Sergeants and Lieutenants to bring them closer to their counterparts within Sheriff's Law Enforcement. The total amount appropriated in the General Fund for these purposes was \$2,844,366. Another \$122,083 was added in the Sheriff's Office for skill-based pay increases. It should be noted that the increases for the POPS employees have been calculated by raising the entire scale beginning October 1. The annual step increase was eliminated by the Commissioners Court in FY 04, and this is continued in FY 05.

## **3. Health Benefits**

Travis County began a self-insured health benefits plan in FY 02. Under a self-insured program, the actual insurance claims made by employees are paid directly from County

resources with an insurance carrier hired to administer claims processing. The primary benefits from being self-insured are that the plan can provide a better level of benefits for employees and provide more control over increasing health premiums for the County. Despite this control, self-insurance does not necessarily reduce overall health care expenses. Due to rising medical and pharmaceutical costs being experienced nationally, along with the demographics of an aging population, the County began to see its employee health care costs rise well beyond historical trends. As can be seen below, the Employee Health Insurance Fund was first established in FY 02 at \$18.3 million and rose to \$31.6 million by FY 04.

|   | FY 02               | FY 03               | FY 04               | FY 05               |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Employee Health Insurance Fund</b> | <b>\$18,334,435</b> | <b>\$22,162,255</b> | <b>\$31,585,857</b> | <b>\$38,342,713</b> |

As mentioned above, these cost increases were so substantial that they affected the ability to award pay increases during both FY 03 and FY 04. In recognition of these circumstances, an Employee Benefits Committee spent several intense months reviewing options, costs, and debating the affordability of different plans for FY 05, in close coordination with the County's external actuary. The work of this Committee was presented to the Commissioners Court in June. After debate and discussion, the Commissioners Court voted to continue a three-option plan that allows employees to choose medical benefits in accordance with their medical needs, financial means and family situations. The Court approved across-the-board employee and retiree increases, with higher increases in the Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) option and the tiers with adult coverage. However, the basic benefits level of the various health plans was not modified.

The Employee Health Insurance Fund increased from \$31,585,857 in FY 04 to \$38,342,713 in FY 05. This represents a \$6,756,856 increase, composed of a \$3,212,077 contribution from the General Fund along with \$3,544,779 in contributions from employees, dependents and retirees.

#### **4. Retirement Benefits**

According to the Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS), Travis County's contribution rate per employee for retirement benefits will decrease from 9.82% of salary to 9.50% of salary to maintain the same level of retirement benefits. This decrease is due to significantly improved investment returns on TCDRS funds. In addition, the Commissioners Court decided to grant a 3% Cost Of Living Adjustment for retirees, and as a result the County-wide retirement contribution rate moved from 9.50% to 9.64%. The net General Fund decrease in FY 05 due to these two combined actions is (\$258,107). These funds were removed from departmental budgets as part of the Adopted Budget.

#### **5. Elected Officials' Salaries**

Compensation increases for Elected Officials totaled \$512,687. This amount funds a 5.75% increase for elected officials (the same percentage as for rank and file), along

with the second phase of the Judges' salary increase that had its first phase approved by the Commissioners Court in FY 04. Further increases were made to the Justices of the Peace and the County Clerk to reflect market and current conditions. The \$512,687 includes \$265,330 for the District and County Court-at-Law Judges and Probate Judge, \$189,501 for the other elected officials, and \$57,856 for the Associate Judges (appointed officials) whose salaries have been typically tied to the District Judges.

### **III. DEBT POLICY**

The Commissioners Court has established a debt limitation policy that is intended to maintain a prudent approach toward the issuance of debt. Among other things, this policy indicates that the Commissioners Court will not issue long-term debt (i.e., with a repayment period in excess of five years) without the approval of such a bond issue by the voters through an election, except under the following circumstances:

1. The expenditure is legally required of the County, where penalties or fines could be imposed on the County if the expenditure is not made. Or,
2. When a financial analysis demonstrates that during a stipulated term Travis County would spend significantly less. Or,
3. The voters have previously approved the issuance of general obligation bonds but, for valid reasons, certificates of obligation must be substituted for such bonds in order to carry out the voters' authorization. Or,
4. When the expense is for necessary planning services or acquiring options for a future capital project that will be submitted to the voters.

### **IV. CAPITAL**

To meet the County's capital needs, a total of \$32,522,800 is included in the Adopted Budget from the following basic sources - the General Fund Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) account (\$9,132,960), debt from new short-term Certificates of Obligation (\$12,400,000), projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$1,724,785), the Road and Bridge Fund (\$4,156,000), the Justice Court Technology Fund (\$19,055), and debt from long-term bonds authorized by the voters (\$5,090,000).

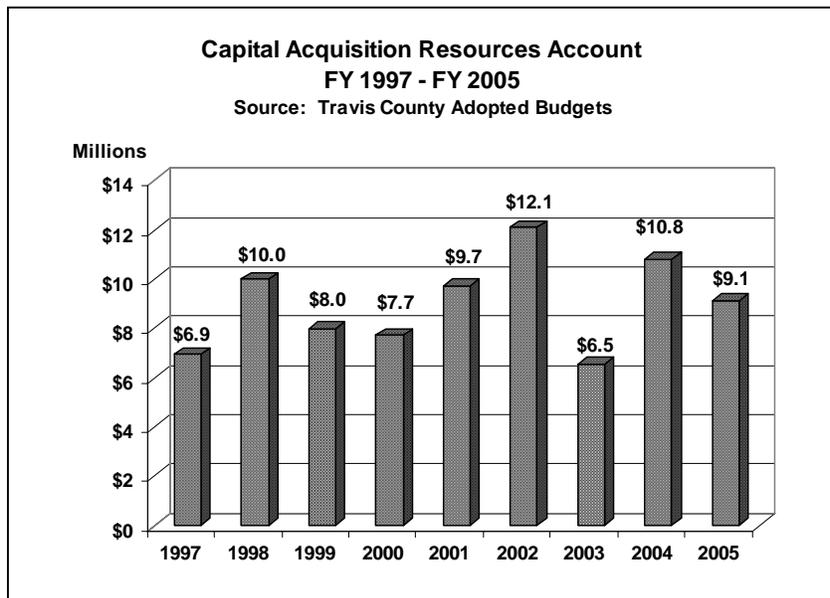
As is the case with on-going expenditures, the County is facing financial constraints on the availability of resources for capital expenditures. The Adopted Budget has addressed these limitations by including those capital projects and equipment for funding that the Commissioners Court concluded meet the following criteria:

- Projects either in the middle or end of their multi-year phased implementation (such as Ethernet upgrades in ITS, or the migration off the MAPPER system);
- Projects where there is little choice but to fund them for health and safety purposes or to avoid future expenses that would be greater (such as roof and HVAC replacements);
- Equipment which needs replacement and is part of a replacement plan, (such as personal computers or vehicles);

- Equipment that continues the maintenance of County wide information systems infrastructure (such as file server upgrades and major computer system upgrades);
- Projects which have already been partially funded by the Commissioners Court or have a contractual obligation to implement (such as the Onion Creek Feasibility Study);
- Projects which have revenue certified to cover their cost (such as the Forensic Center Addition); or
- Projects and/or equipment that the Commissioners Court believe are necessary to fulfill its mission.

**A. General Fund (CAR)**

The General Fund Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) account is used for the purpose of funding capital equipment and facilities. This account has been quite variable over the years, driven by economic circumstances, capital needs, and other sources and constraints on debt financing. In the last 8 years, it has ranged from a low of \$6.5 million in FY 03 to a high of \$12.1 million in FY 02.



The FY 05 Adopted Budget establishes the CAR account at \$9,132,960, which is approximately \$1.7 million lower than in FY 04. This amount does not include the FACTS Capital Reserve. However, this amount does include \$1.8 million of CAR

resources appropriated in FY 04 and rebudgeted in FY 05. Rebudgeted CAR projects represent capital that was approved and funded in FY 04 but not encumbered or expended prior to the end of the fiscal year and yet will still be needed in FY 05.

A summary of the equipment and facility projects funded from CAR is shown on the following page. The detailed list of individual equipment items or facility projects for FY 05 is located in Appendix I, Table 6, on page 45.

**Capital Items Funded by the Capital Acquisition Resources Account (CAR)**

| Type of Project/Department  | Amount             |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Vehicles (\$1,104,990):</b>  |                    |
| Replacement cars, trucks, SUV's motorcycles and heavy equipment   | \$891,950          |
| New vehicles and equipment  | 213,040            |
| <b>Technology and Computers (\$1,729,813):</b>  |                    |
| Replacement of personal & notebook computers, equipment & printers  | \$1,041,324        |
| Other ITS projects  | 501,924            |
| New personal & notebook computers, equipment and printers   | 186,565            |
| <b>Facilities Modifications (\$2,620,122):</b>  |                    |
| HVAC replacements in Courthouse, USB and Granger Bldg   | 873,069            |
| Forensic Center addition, Airport Bldg. Remodel, Pct. 1 Substation, and other Facilities Management equipment | 335,181            |
| Space costs for other County-wide approved capital projects   | 34,900             |
| Rebudgeted facilities projects from FY 04   | 1,376,972          |
| <b>Sheriff's Office Projects (\$1,748,758):</b>   |                    |
| Correctional Complex Roof replacements  | \$379,000          |
| Sheriff's Firing Range  | 250,000            |
| Correctional Complex HVAC repairs   | 170,000            |
| Sheriff's Driving Simulator   | 127,000            |
| Correctional Complex Boilers  | 122,000            |
| Correctional Complex slider door replacement  | 100,000            |
| Central booking Sallyport Door replacement  | 100,000            |
| Collier Center Command gates and fencing  | 61,000             |
| Rebudgeted Travis County Jail control panel   | 20,000             |
| Other Sheriff's Office equipment and facility repairs   | 419,758            |
| <b>Other (\$1,421,747):</b>   |                    |
| Ambulances  | \$506,625          |
| Various Tax Office equipment  | 169,721            |
| Commissioners Court cameras and accessories   | 150,000            |
| Starflight equipment  | 124,869            |
| Various Civil Courts equipment  | 112,902            |
| Equipment for East Metro Park (exclusive of vehicles & heavy equip.)  | 84,860             |
| Onion Creek Feasibility Study   | 43,000             |
| Other equipment and projects among 9 other departments  | 229,770            |
| <b>Sub-total</b>  | <b>\$8,625,430</b> |
| CAR Reserve   | 507,530            |
| <b>TOTAL CAR</b>  | <b>\$9,132,960</b> |

**B. Road and Bridge Fund**

In addition to the resources provided through the General Fund Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) account, the Road and Bridge Fund has a total of \$4,156,000 for new Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) capital needs, as summarized in the table below.

**Road and Bridge Projects and Equipment Funded from Road and Bridge Fund**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Replacement vehicles and heavy equipment | \$1,465,500        |
| Hot Mix Overlay                          | 1,800,000          |
| Type "F" Mix road projects               | 800,000            |
| Asphalt emulsion storage reservoir       | 49,000             |
| Other replacement equipment              | 41,500             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$4,156,000</b> |

In addition, the FY 05 Adopted Budget includes a total of \$955,160 rebudgeted from Road and Bridge projects that were budgeted in FY 04 and have not yet been completed. These projects include traffic signals (\$769,210), guardrails (\$65,950), sidewalks (\$100,000), and Spring Willow Claim Settlement (\$20,000).

**C. Justice Court Technology Fund**

The Justice Court Technology Fund is used to fund technology expenditures for the Travis County Justice Courts. The fund is used for new and replacement PC's, printers, software, and telephone equipment for the 5 Justice Courts. The \$19,055 is budgeted centrally in ITS. For FY 05, the fund includes technical equipment requested by 3 of the 5 JP's. Please see their departmental summaries for details.

**D. Debt Financing**

The final funding source for capital equipment and projects is using debt, either in the form of Bonds or five year Certificates of Obligation.

**1. Previous Bond Authorizations**

**a. November 2000 Bond Authorization**

In November 2000, voters authorized the Commissioners Court to issue \$28 million in General Obligation bonds for the following projects:

| Project                | Original Authorization | Issued in '01 | Issued in '02 | Issued in '03 or '04 | Remaining Authorization |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| State Highway 130      | \$20,000,000           | \$0           | \$20,000,000  | \$0                  | \$0                     |
| Loop 1 (MoPac) North   | 4,000,000              | 4,000,000     | 0             | 0                    | 0                       |
| US 290 West *          | 2,000,000              | 0             | 0             | 0                    | 2,000,000*              |
| State Highway 45 North | 2,000,000              | 0             | 2,000,000     | 0                    | 0                       |
| Total Nov. 2000 Bonds  | \$28,000,000           | \$4,000,000   | \$22,000,000  | \$0                  | \$2,000,000             |

\*Remaining authorization not scheduled to be issued in FY 05.

**b. November 2001 Bond Authorization**

A citizens committee was established during FY 01 by the Commissioners Court to provide advice and counsel on a roads and parks bond election in November 2001. A total of \$184,955,000 in projects was submitted to the voters in four separate propositions and every ballot proposition passed. The table below shows the amount of the original authorization and how much was issued through FY 04.

| Project   | Original Authorization | Issued Through FY 04 | Issued in FY 05                             | Remaining Authorization |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Prop. 1: Local roads, drainage, bridges and pedestrian access | \$57,430,000           | \$30,620,000         | \$13,765,000<br>(12,615,000)<br>\$1,150,000 | \$13,045,000            |
| Prop. 2: County park projects                                 | 28,600,000             | 21,425,000           | 3,940,000                                   | 3,235,000               |
| Prop. 3: State Hwy 45N and FM 1826 Right of Way*              | 32,725,000             | 32,000,000           | (12,615,000)                                | 13,340,000              |
| Prop. 4: State Highway 130                                    | 66,200,000             | 66,200,000           | 0   | 0                       |
| Total for November 2001 Bonds                                 | \$184,955,000          | \$150,245,000        | \$5,090,000                                 | \$29,620,000            |

\*Based on current requirements from the State for Proposition Three (State Hwy 45N), Travis County will not need to pay \$12,615,000 in FY 05. Since the County has already received these proceeds, the money will be used instead for funding the majority of the Proposition One projects (local roads). This means that only \$1,150,000 will need to be issued for Proposition One projects in FY 05. This will not change the overall authorization approved by the voters, and the remaining authorization after FY 05 will be \$29,620,000 as outlined above.

**2. FY 05 Certificates of Obligation**

The amount of total debt approved to be issued through short-term Certificates of Obligation in FY 05 is \$12,400,000. This debt supports projects eligible for Certificate of Obligation (CO) funding that are reasonable and logical for 5 year CO financing. The amount of CO funding in the Adopted Budget results in the total estimated annual debt service in FY 06 to increase from \$62.5 million to \$63.5 million. The details of \$12,400,000 in funding from five-year Certificates of Obligation in FY 05 are summarized in the following table.

**Projects Funded from FY 05 Certificates of Obligation**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Two helicopters (net, after trade-in)   | \$8,000,000         |
| Airport Boulevard Building, Phase II  | 1,454,556           |
| Gardner-Betts Detention shell build-out   | 876,375             |
| Corrections Officers radios and communications infrastructure   | 600,000             |
| County-wide vehicles and heavy equipment  | 552,100             |
| Correctional Complex hot water system replacement (Health Services Building) and control panel upgrades (Buildings 2 and 3) | 265,000             |
| Fire Alarm System in Juvenile Court   | 245,000             |
| Planning for new Civil Courthouse   | 150,000             |
| Converting token ring to Ethernet infrastructure  | 182,000             |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>  | <b>\$12,325,031</b> |
| Issuance Cost   | \$74,969            |
| <b>Total CO</b>   | <b>\$12,400,000</b> |

**3. Capital From Existing Certificates of Obligation**

Every year, existing Certificate of Obligation balances are re-appropriated towards eligible and approved capital projects. In FY 05, these balances totaled \$1,724,785 and were used for projects summarized in the table below.

**Projects Funded from Existing Certificates of Obligation**

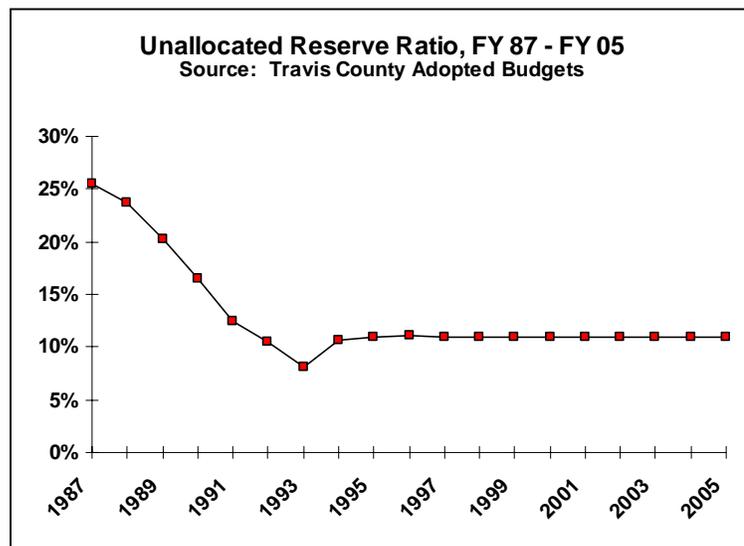
|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Replacement Vehicles                                   | \$621,000          |
| Telecommunications upgrades & file server upgrades     | 334,571            |
| Major computer systems upgrades                        | 301,000            |
| Maintenance Building at East Metro Park                | 204,600            |
| Courthouse Third Floor remodel                         | 153,614            |
| Forensic equipment                                     | 90,000             |
| CSCD remodel of First Floor of Criminal Justice Center | 20,000             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$1,724,785</b> |

**V. RESERVES**

There are three types of regularly budgeted reserves: (A) Unallocated Reserve, (B) Allocated Reserve, and (C) the Capital Acquisition Resources account Reserve (CAR Reserve). There are also special Departmental and County-wide Reserves established for a special purpose and do not necessarily remain in the budget from year-to-year. Each of these reserves is summarized below.

**A. Unallocated Reserve**

The Unallocated Reserve is not dedicated for any specific expenditure and is not intended to be spent except in the case of a disaster or dire emergency. It sometimes is called “The Untouchable Reserve” and makes up much of the budgeted ending fund balance. The level of this reserve demonstrates the County's fiscal soundness, which in turn influences the County's bond rating. The County drew down its Unallocated Reserve during the late 1980's as a cushion to accommodate necessary programmatic requirements and economic conditions and to more closely match taxation with the timing of expenditures. Unallocated Reserve ratios declined significantly during that period.



The County's bond and financial advisors have recommended that the County maintain an Unallocated Reserve level of between 8% and 12% for sound financial management.

(The Commissioners Court's Financial and Budgeting Guidelines state a goal for this reserve to be between 10% and 12%). In FY 93, the reserve ratio was 8.12%. During the last ten years, the Commissioners Court maintained the Unallocated Reserve ratio at 11.0%. The total FY 05 General Fund Unallocated Reserve in the Adopted Budget is \$34,757,304. As has been done since FY 00, the General Fund Unallocated Reserve in the Adopted Budget for FY 05 carries the majority of reserve requirements for the Road and Bridge Fund.

The County's Unallocated Reserves calculations are based on budgeted expenditures in three funds: the General Fund, the Debt Service Fund, and the Road and Bridge Fund. The historical reserve ratios (per Standard and Poor's formula) showing the relationship between the Unallocated Reserve for the General Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, and the Debt Service Funds and the adjusted expenses for these funds are contained on page 44 in Appendix I as Table 5.

### **B. Allocated Reserve**

The Allocated Reserve is dedicated to known or potential expenditures, and some or all of the reserve is likely to be spent during the year. The FY 05 Adopted Budget includes an Allocated Reserve of \$2,209,943. The total of this reserve represents less than 0.7% of the General Fund.

There are potential claims against this Allocated Reserve. These potential claims are called "Earmarks" and are signals to the Commissioners Court that a department may have a justified need for a mid-year transfer of resources to their budget for a specific purpose. The Earmarks are not appropriations and departments should not consider them as departmental resources. These Earmarks total \$805,505. A listing and summary of these proposed Earmarks against the Allocated Reserve are listed in Appendix I on page 59 as Table 12.

### **C. Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) Account Reserve**

The Capital Acquisition Resources account Reserve (CAR Reserve) is similar to the Allocated Reserve, but is instead used for one-time expenditures for capital items. It is for additional capital purchases or projects that are developed during the year or to pay for cost increases in already approved capital projects. The Adopted Budget includes a CAR reserve of \$507,530. The Earmarks against this reserve total \$170,928, as outlined on page 59 in Appendix I as Table 12.

### **D. Other Special Purpose Reserves**

A total of eight separate special purpose reserves have been established in the Adopted Budget, and have been discussed earlier. These are summarized below.

**New Special Purpose Reserves in FY 05 Adopted Budget**

| Reserve                                  | Amount             |
|--|--------------------|
| Reserve for IJS/FACTS implementation     | 654,792            |
| Reserve for FACTS Capital                | 322,200            |
| Security Reserve                         | 200,000            |
| Emergency Reserve – Jail Overcrowding    | 200,000            |
| Reserve for Fines, Fees, and Assessments | 150,000            |
| Records Storage                          | 145,000            |
| Exposition Center Subsidy Reserve        | 141,877            |
| Solid Waste Management Reserve (in '04)  | 98,000             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$1,911,869</b> |

**VI. PROPERTY TAX RATE**

The total taxable value for all Travis County property has seen a slight increase from \$60.195 billion in the FY 04 Adopted Budget to \$61.11 billion for FY 05, as certified by the Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD). The following data as well as the overall Adopted Budget is based on TCAD certified values. The new property value totals \$1.875 billion, compared to new property value of \$2.147 billion in FY 04. The tables below depict the impact of the proposed tax rate of \$.4872 per \$100 of taxable value on the average residential homestead and the average commercial property.

Please note that this property tax rate includes a tax rate decrease for the new Hospital District totaling \$.0144.

**Impact on Average Homestead**

(All homestead values per Travis Central Appraisal District values of 7/25/04)

|   | FY 04           | FY 05           | Difference       |               |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Average Appraised Value of all homesteads | \$191,240       | \$197,874       | \$6,634          | 3.5%          |
| Taxable Value after 20% exemption         | \$152,992       | \$158,299       | \$5,307          | 3.5%          |
| <b>Tax Rate</b>                           | <b>\$.4918</b>  | <b>\$.4872</b>  | <b>(\$.0046)</b> | <b>(0.9%)</b> |
| <b>Average Tax</b>                        | <b>\$752.41</b> | <b>\$771.23</b> | <b>\$18.82</b>   | <b>2.5%</b>   |

**Impact on Average Commercial Property**

|                                       | FY 04             | FY 05             | Difference        |               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Average Taxable Value (no exemptions) | \$530,089         | \$507,259         | (\$22,830)        | (4.3%)        |
| <b>Tax Rate</b>                       | <b>\$.4918</b>    | <b>\$.4872</b>    | <b>(\$.0046)</b>  | <b>(0.9%)</b> |
| <b>Average Tax</b>                    | <b>\$2,606.97</b> | <b>\$2,471.36</b> | <b>(\$135.61)</b> | <b>(5.2%)</b> |

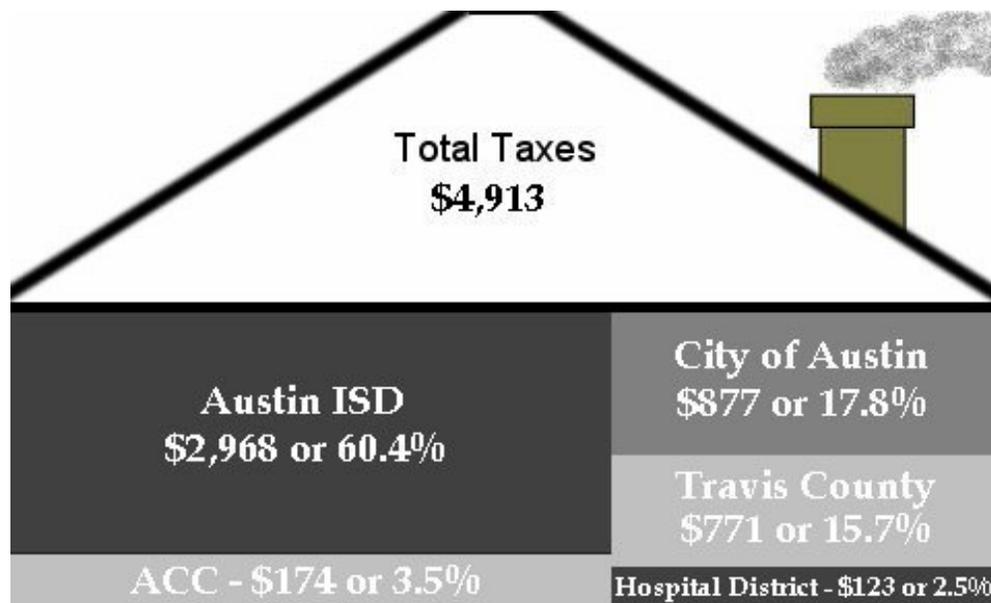
The figures above are those that were placed in a newspaper ad announcing a public hearing on the tax rate. While the average homestead experienced an annual increase of \$18.82, the average commercial property experienced an annual decrease of \$135.62. This is due to the shifting of property values from the commercial to the residential sector.

The FY 05 Adopted Budget is balanced at a \$.4872 tax rate. This represents the Effective Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate plus the Debt Rate, less the \$.0144 reduced from the tax rate due to the new Hospital District. It represents a decrease of \$.0046 in the Tax Rate from the current \$.4918 per hundred of taxable value, equaling a .9% decrease.

**ADOPTED BUDGET TAX RATES FOR TRAVIS COUNTY**  
(Cents per \$100 of Appraised Value)

|                       | <b>Adopted<br/>FY 04 Rate</b> | <b>Adopted<br/>FY 05 Rate</b> | <b>Difference</b> | <b>% Change</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Operating Rate        | \$ .3926                      | \$ .3850                      | (\$ .0076)        | (1.9%)          |
| Debt Service Rate     | \$ .0992                      | \$ .1022                      | \$ .0030          | 3.0%            |
| <b>Total Tax Rate</b> | <b>\$ .4918</b>               | <b>\$ .4872</b>               | <b>(\$ .0046)</b> | <b>(0.9%)</b>   |

**FY 05 Property Tax for Average Travis County Homestead Valued at \$197,874**



Travis County taxes in FY 05 for the average homestead valued within Travis County at \$197,874 totaled \$771. This is based on the adopted tax rate of \$.4872 per \$100 of appraised value and the 20% homestead exemption provided by the County. The City of Austin tax rate is \$.4430, but since the City does not provide a homestead exemption,

the City taxes on this same value average homestead would be \$877. The Austin Independent School District tax rate is \$1.623 and with their homestead exemption of \$15,000, their taxes on this homestead would be \$2,968. ACC has a \$.0900 tax rate and their homestead exemption is \$5,000, resulting in an average tax of \$174. The new Hospital District adds a \$.0779 tax with a 20% homestead exemption, for a cost of \$123. Travis County's portion of the overall tax bill of \$4,913 (without reference to other taxing jurisdictions such as an Emergency Services District or a Water District) is 15.7% of the total.