Arapahoe County adopts 2014 budget

Commissioners adopt $338 million budget that holds the line on spending and honors Arapahoe County’s Service First commitment to citizens

LITTLETON, CO --- Today, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted a $338 million budget that once again includes a structurally balanced general fund budget, protects core services and controls spending for 2014.

“With today’s adoption of our budget, which was accomplished by holding the line on expenses and finding ways to be more efficient, we are once again able to continue to provide the essential county services at the quality our citizens have come to expect,” said Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who serves as Board Chairman. “This is especially challenging as we continue to experience minimal growth in revenue as the economy continues to slowly improve.”

The operating budget was balanced through a number of methods including voluntary reductions by Elected Offices and Departments and continued implementation of efficiency measures throughout Arapahoe County.

The budget also meets the tenets of Align Arapahoe, the County’s performance framework, which was implemented in 2009, and is helping Arapahoe County evaluate its core services and programs to ensure optimal performance at minimal costs. By using performance measures and feedback to monitor progress, Align Arapahoe is helping Arapahoe County to make better program, service and budget decisions.

The 2014 budget includes $10.6 million for capital projects, of which, $3.1 million is set aside for new roadway and infrastructure projects; $1.3 million is planned for renovations to Altura Plaza; $2.3 million is planned for improvements to the County’s Lima Plaza to accommodate a relocation of probation; and $890,000 will be used to construct an additional courtroom at the Arapahoe County Justice Center.

The budget includes the hiring of an additional 10 positions for a new assessment program in the jail and the County’s Open Space program. The 2014 budget includes funding for 1,982 employees and also funds a 2 percent salary adjustment based on merit and shares the increased cost of health insurance with employees.

The mill levy for 2014 will be 16.130 mills, which falls within TABOR constitutional revenue limitations.

A copy of the County’s budget is available for review under County News at www.arapahoegov.com.

* * *

Arapahoe County Communication Services Department