

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

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Contact:

ANDREA RASIZER

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

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

Arapahoe County adopts \$333.2 million budget for 2007

LITTLETON, CO --- On Tuesday, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners approved the \$333.2 million 2007 budget, which sets aside funding to begin construction of the new \$7 million Eastern Arapahoe County Service Center.

Highlights of the budget include 12 new full-time positions, two of which are designated for the County Attorney's Office and seven for the Sheriff's Office detentions facility. To help offset the staff increases, eight positions were eliminated in the Public Works and Development Department and transferred to the new Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority.

The Service Center, which will be located on 72 acres at the southwest corner of east Quincy Avenue and south Brick Center Road, will provide a new home for the County's Road and Bridge operations and a new vehicle maintenance center to replace the aging facility in Byers.

While the overall 2007 budget grew by 13.5 percent due to projects in the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Public Improvement District and the increased cost of salaries, benefits, energy, and construction materials, the General Fund portion of \$147 million remained relatively flat, or just 1.3 percent higher than in 2006.

The County spent much of 2006 looking at ways in which to reduce county expenses and increase efficiencies, including implementing the Chevron Energy Performance Contract, which is saving money by creating more energy efficient buildings, and generating savings by refinancing debt.

Property taxes are expected to increase to \$110 million from \$103.6 million in 2006, as a result of new construction, increased assessed valuation and inflation. At 16.083 mills, the County's mill levy continues to remain one of the lowest in the Denver metro area.

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