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## **Arapahoe County adopts \$369.2 million budget for 2008**

LITTLETON, CO --- On Tuesday, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners approved a balanced \$369.2 million 2008 budget, which sets aside \$19 million in one-time capital projects in the General Fund, including \$12.3 million to address the short-term space needs for the courts.

"The 2008 budget is in response to the needs of the citizens of Arapahoe County," said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chair. "This budget reflects a philosophy of maintaining a high level of service, keeping taxes low and being as efficient as possible with the taxpayers' money."

Arapahoe County, like most counties in Colorado, is grappling with a shortage of court and jail space. In 2008, Arapahoe County will begin an expansion and remodel of the Justice Center at 7305 S. Potomac St. in Centennial to accommodate the addition of four new judges, staff and increase court cases affecting Arapahoe County and the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Other one-time projects include \$3 million to address a shortage of County office space and \$5 million for road and infrastructure projects, such as the Arapahoe Road-Parker Road interchange and the Broncos Parkway-Peoria Street intersection. The operating budget also includes \$1.5 million to handle expenses from the 2008 primary and general elections.

The 2008 budget includes 44.75 new full-time positions, 25 of which will provide additional detention deputies, which will be partially funded by overtime expense savings. Other new positions approved for 2008 include four deputies for the Courts, two Judicial Services Officers and eight positions in Human Services to handle increase work in the department's Call Center and Children, Youth and Family Services division.

Property taxes are expected to increase 5.4 percent to \$116 million from \$110 million in 2007, as a result of new construction, increased assessed valuation and inflation. The mill levy will decrease to 15.217 mills from 16.083 mills in 2007 due to Constitutional revenue limitations. Arapahoe County's mill levy continues to remain one of the lowest county mill levies in the Denver metro area.

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