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Arapahoe County adopts 2010 \$324.4 million budget

Budget protects core services and honors commitment to provide quality services

LITTLETON, CO --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Tuesday adopted a structurally balanced \$324.4 million operating budget that ensures core County services will continue in 2010.

The 2010 budget, which is 7.5 percent less than 2009 due to projected flat revenues and careful budget planning, will continue to fund senior transportation, homemaker services, community development block grant funds, employment and workforce development through Arapahoe/Douglas Works! and weatherization services at the same levels as in 2009.

The budget, which was approved by a 3-2 vote with Commissioners Susan Beckman and Jim Dyer voting no, sets aside \$1.5 million for the 2010 Election and includes \$6.3 million for capital projects, such as the replacement of the Assessor and Treasurer's Office aging assessment and taxation system, reconstruction of Jewell Avenue, widening of Iliff Avenue, widening of Arapahoe Road, and construction of the Arapahoe Road and Parker Road interchange. Other capital improvements include Asbury Avenue, Dahlia Street Sidewalk, and replacement of the roof at the County's Administration Building in Littleton.

During the last several years, the Board of County Commissioners has focused on maintaining a balanced operating budget by continuing to find ways to become more efficient and effective; using fund balance for one-time budget needs and capital projects instead of ongoing operations; and limiting growth of the County's general fund operating budget.

The 2010 budget will include 1,971 employees, which is an increase of four new full-time positions. The positions include two new driver's license specialists in the Clerk and Recorder's Office, a traffic deputy and three communication technicians in the Sheriff's Office. The new positions are offset by the reduction of two full-time positions in the Assessor's Office and increased revenues from driver's license fees, traffic fines and an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Sheridan to provide emergency 911 services.

The mill levy for 2010 will be 14.672 mills, remaining below the TABOR constitutional revenue limitations. Arapahoe County's mill levy will continue to remain one of the lowest county mill levies in the Denver metro area.

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