



Board of County Commissioners

Executive Offices

Inverness, FL 34450

(352) 341-6560 – FAX (352) 341-6584

FISCAL YEAR 2008-09

BUDGET MESSAGE

July 15, 2008

Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Citrus County, Florida

The Honorable Chairman and Commissioners:

The County Staff and I are pleased to present the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to the Board of County Commissioners and citizens of Citrus County. As a result of the combined efforts of the Board Departments and its Offices, the Constitutional Officers, and County-funded agency programs, this budget represents reduced spending for the upcoming fiscal year. Some people would even say that this budget represents significantly reduced spending.

Because of current economic conditions and threatened budget cuts, government officials around the state have been issuing dire predictions about cuts in services. I will not do this. Because of tax rate reductions by the commission over the previous two years -- from 8.5553 mills to 6.6584 mills in the current budget -- and hard work by all agencies for the upcoming budget cycle to find more effective ways to operate, this budget requires no such warnings. It not only cuts spending, but it protects vital services and reserves.

This budget was prepared following voter approval of Amendment 1 on January 29, 2008, a vote which doubled the homestead exemption and allowed for the "Save Our Homes" benefit to be transferred to future homesteads ("portability"). In response to the enacting legislation, the Board of County Commissioners took immediate steps to plan for revenue reductions.

Several actions ensued, including a request from the Property Appraiser for a preliminary estimate of the 2008 taxable value. The Property Appraiser responded with a very preliminary estimate of a 12% to 14% reduction in taxable value. On February 12, 2008, the Board directed Staff and Constitutional Officers to prepare both a 5% and 10% budget scenario utilizing current 2007/08 budget figures. That report was presented to the Board in April 2008.

Based on the above actions, the Board Departments, Constitutional Officers and funded agencies were aware of the Board's initiative to reduce the budget by as much as \$12 million, and the agencies provided the necessary reductions to produce a balanced budget.

This year's revenue shortfall is the result of a combination of factors, including:

- The impact of Amendment 1.
- The slowing economy.
- The downturn in property values based on current market conditions.

To meet the challenge, we put a mirror in front of ourselves and took a long, careful look to find more efficient ways to live within our means. Several strategies have been employed to accomplish the goal of reducing spending and protecting services. The overriding focus of this process, however, has been to gain internal efficiencies while reducing individual line items and programs that would have the least impact to the core services provided by the County government. This budget does that.

FY 2008/2009 Budget Message

Total Budget

The budget totals \$222,854,173, down 19.88% or \$55,292,074 from the current fiscal year budget of \$278,146,247. This proposed budget accomplishes the following:

- A \$9.5 million reduction in ad valorem levy, or 11.64%
- It reduces spending by 19.88%
- It does not touch general fund reserve levels
- It maintains planned capital improvement programs
- It reduces the number of Board employees by 28 net positions
- It reduces the number of grant employees by 2.

Looking forward, this year I have directed BOCC departments to begin moving in a direction that employs Evidence Based programs in which outcomes are measured. A special section with examples of these kinds of programs are included in this Budget under the Evidence Based Programs tab.

Property Values

The gross taxable value of the county tax roll decreased 11.5% from about \$12.4 billion in 2007 to about \$10.9 billion this year. The millage remains the same at 6.6584. Of the total value, \$357.8 million was the result of new construction. Homestead property portability impacted 569 parcels for a total portability value of \$33,885,290.

Millage and Ad Valorem Taxes

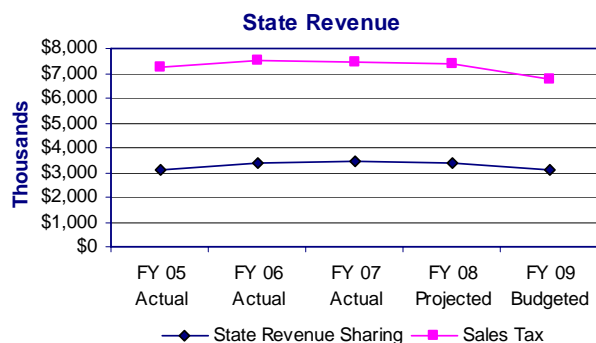
The budget reflects no change in the millage rate of 6.6584. A comparison of the rates and their corresponding revenues which reflect the change in property values are outlined below.

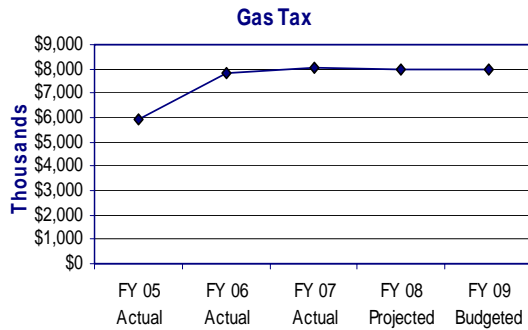
| | <i>Millage</i> | <i>2007/08 Revenue</i> | <i>2008/09 Revenue</i> | <i>Change in Revenue</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| General Fund | 5.1011 | \$63,197,414 | \$55,856,390 | (\$7,341,024) |
| Transportation | 0.6925 | 8,578,784 | 7,582,786 | (995,998) |
| Health Department | 0.0980 | 1,214,000 | 1,073,088 | (140,913) |
| BOCC County-Wide Total | 5.8916 | 72,990,198 | 64,512,264 | (8,477,935) |
| <i>Special Districts</i> | | | | |
| Fire Rescue | 0.4566 | 5,415,822 | 4,760,833 | (654,990) |
| Library Services | 0.3102 | 3,843,030 | 3,396,651 | (446,380) |
| Total Millage | 6.6584 | \$82,249,050 | \$72,669,748 | (\$9,579,305) |

Revenues

State Revenue

Retail sales tax, the general fund's second largest revenue source, has decreased by \$625,642 and State Revenue Sharing funds are projected as a decrease of \$312,516. These projections are based on 97% of the State provided estimates. Communication Service Tax is expected to reach \$1.984 million in FY 2009 which is a \$38,920 increase over the current year.





Gas Tax

The Board of County Commissioners levies local option gas tax in the amount of 12¢ per gallon to fund transportation projects. The constitutional fuel tax will generate \$1,552,885, the county fuel tax will generate \$708,058, the first local option will generate \$2,999,225, the second local option gas tax will generate \$2,126,673 and the ninth cent on motor fuels will add \$580,140 in revenue. This is an approximate decrease of \$161,000 for fiscal year 2008.

Excess Fees

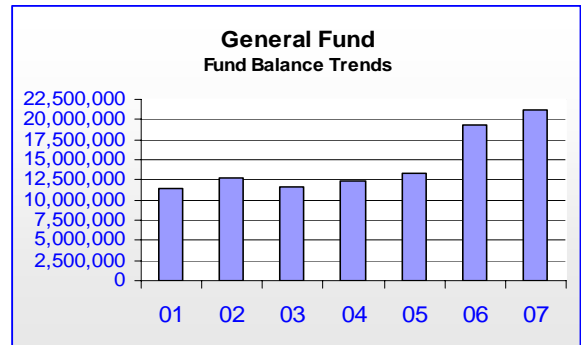
On December 18, 2007, the Board made a motion to create a separate fund for all Constitutional Officers' excess fees and escrow those funds for future space expansion. The FY 2009 budget includes those revenues in a new fund.

Grants

Grants are also an important general revenue source. A cash match of \$816,137 will support the application for \$4,988,020 in Community Support Services and Extension Services grants. The State Aide to Library programs is providing a \$222,000 grant to offset the construction costs for the Floral City Library.

Fund Balance

In accordance with the Administrative Regulation, Fund Balance Policy adopted by the Board, a Fund Balance Schedule and a Fund Balance Analysis Schedule is included in the Appendix section. The unreserved fund balance amount is shown in each fund under the account titled Reserve Cash Forward. In the General Fund, this amount is 11.84% of the General Fund expenditures. The policy sets a target goal of 8% to 17% in the General Fund. This compares to last year's 11.45% level.



BALANCING THE 2008/2009 BUDGET

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

- The Sheriff's ad valorem operating original budget submittal in total is \$28,023,387. This represents a decrease of \$1,079,295 from the FY 2008 adopted budget of \$29,102,682. An administrative adjustment for electronic inmate monitoring program has been added to general operations budget for a recommended total budget of \$28,106,082. During Fiscal Year 2004 the Sheriff and the Board entered into a contract with the City of Inverness and in Fiscal Year 2008 entered into a contract with the City of Crystal River for the Sheriff to provide law enforcement services to the Cities. The City of Inverness will provide \$1,156,979 and the City of Crystal River will provide \$1,172,979 in Fiscal Year 2009 to support these contracts. This brings the Sheriff's total budget to \$30,435,691.
- The Supervisor of Election's budget decrease is realized from conducting only one election in FY 2009 rather than the two conducted in FY 2008.
- The County's portion of the Property Appraiser's budget submitted to the Department of Revenue for FY 2009 is \$3,556,091. This is a decrease of 12.49% or \$507,902 over FY 2008 adopted budget of \$4,063,993. This decrease is due in part by not funding 5 employee vacancies and by not renewing the specialized aerial photography.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Administrative Services –

- The Department of Juvenile Justice budget request has been reduced based upon their projections due to their overall budget reduction and a reduction in the number of Citrus County pre-disposition juveniles.
- Corrections Corporation of America continues to be the provider of jail services in Citrus County. The estimated daily inmate count for 2008-2009 is 420 inmates per day. The October 1, 2008 contract is \$61.84 per inmate per day, which equates to an estimated budget of \$9,480,072.

Capital Improvement Program –

- Additional grants for the Emergency Operations Center has resulted in a reduction of the Debt Service payment.
- Project funding includes Historical Courthouse Repairs, Document Imaging, Beach Renourishment, Needs Assessment/Space Planning Study, Resource Center Parking Lot expansion, Chiller at the Citrus County Detention Facility, Courthouse Annex Entry, Inverness Health Department renovation and Animal Services Crematory.

OFFICES

Geographic Information System –

- The Geographic Information System (GIS) base map has been completed and the maintenance of the map will be provided by GIS staff.

Systems Management –

- The Help Desk Technician will assume the responsibility of monitoring and paying the monthly invoices for communication services from Maintenance Operations. This will ensure all phone installations and deletions are accurately billed since this position currently coordinates the installations and terminations to the phone system.

Management and Budget –

- Reduced operating expenditures in the areas of travel and training, dues, books and memberships. Also transitioned to electronic distribution of training materials and the Budget and Capital Improvement Program books to reduce costs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Library Services –

- The Library System has undergone a re-evaluation and prioritization of staffing, services, processes, and hours with a goal of greater efficiency with reduced resources. The replacement of the aging youth room furniture at Lakes and Coastal Libraries has been eliminated along with the public address system in the community rooms. The landscape revitalization project at the Coastal Regional Library has been deleted and the budget reduction necessitated a \$400,000 decrease in library materials made available to the public. Due to eliminated staff positions the operating hours for the libraries will be reduced from 60 to approximately 54 hours per week.

Community Support Service –

- Community Service has reduced staffing in Drug Court, the Community Centers and in Grant Case Management. Budget reductions have been made in travel, promotional activities, computer materials

and the county grant cash match saving approximately \$210,175. The emergency assistance program has been eliminated at an annual savings of \$5,000.

Parks and Recreation –

- The Parks & Recreation Division has concentrated on budget reductions in the area of casual labor. Parks & Recreation has eliminated the casual labor lifeguards at both beaches, and the student intern. Ground Maintenance section has eliminated the casual labor positions that normally would assist with evenings at numerous park locations. The result is a savings of \$114,460 to the County.

Extension Services –

- Citrus County Extension has reduced its budget through position reallocation/elimination. This has been accomplished through rehiring a Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Agent and eliminating a program assistant position. The exempt FCS position is supported through a 50/50 funding agreement with Citrus County and the University of Florida. The agent position receives University of Florida benefits further reducing the cost to the county. The total savings to the county is approximately \$50,000.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Building Division –

- Initiated a temporary 32 hour work week for all Building Division employees. This will result in an across the board 20% reduction in payroll, yielding a saving of approximately \$25,000 per month.

Community Development –

- Made significant reductions in travel and training for planning staff and the Planning and Development Review Board (PDRB), reduced dues by eliminating memberships, reduced the number of assigned cellular phones, eliminated printing of the revised Land Development Code (LDC) and eliminated overtime.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Animal Services –

- Implemented a policy to vaccinate upon impound reduced the amount of sick animals therefore reducing the Veterinarians Fees.
- Implemented the Hill's Science Diet food program which provides pet food products for the cost of shipping in exchange feeding Science Diet pet food exclusively to the canines and felines.

Code Enforcement –

- On December 18, 2007, two Code Enforcement Officers were added in accordance with Southwest Water Management District consent agreement which states the County must have personnel dedicated solely to the enforcement of irrigation restrictions. The Code Enforcement Officers' schedule has been modified to begin late in the evening or early morning when the infractions occur, therefore the overtime expenses are minimal.

Fire Rescue –

- Fire Rescue has absorbed the Haz Mat program and the Captain position previously funded in the General Fund Haz Mat department has been eliminated.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Administration –

- The funding for the Capital Improvement Program-ADA program has been reduced since most of the County owned buildings have been brought into compliance.

Aquatics Services –

- With the budget cuts forthcoming for fiscal year 2008/09 in the amount of \$221,198, which represents a 16.73% reduction in total “Operational Costs” from last year, some areas of service will be affected within the Division of Aquatic Services. The majority of the budget cuts were derived from the “Contractual Services” & “Chemicals” accounts.

As you are aware, the County’s program augments the State’s Aquatic Plant Control Program and the County funds navigational trails not covered within the State’s program. Therefore, a reduction in funding within the County’s program will amount to a decrease in frequency of mechanical harvesting and herbicide applications with the County maintained trails.

Engineering –

- Professional Services has been reduced due to the completion of the Engineering Manual.

Maintenance Operations –

- This budget includes funds for the electricity, water and sewer, and generator fuel and maintenance totaling \$308,000 associated with the new Emergency Operations Center.

Road Maintenance –

- Eliminated a Maintenance Worker and Medium Equipment Operator. Also the contract services and road materials have been reduced. The safety signs account has been reduced due to the completion of compliance with the new Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reflectivity for road signage.

RESERVES AND TRANSFERS

General Fund Reserves –

- The reserves are funded at 11.84% or \$9,687,684 and includes a 1% or \$820,000 reserve for contingency. The 2007/2008 Reserve for Contingency account was funded at a higher level than required by Board policy. The beginning balance of \$852,000 increased by \$544,141 with the July hearing adjustments for a final budget of \$1,396,141.

General Fund Transfers –

- The transfers include \$2,000,000 annual contribution for the water/wastewater infrastructure match and \$50,000 for General Water Quality, and \$125,000 for lake restoration.

Expenditure Overview of the budget reductions

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| • General Fund | |
| • Corrections Corporation of America | 503,263 |
| • Tax Delinquent Lands | 90,000 |
| • Department of Juvenile Justice | 155,819 |
| • Capital Improvement Program | 420,084 |
| • Positions deleted or reclassified savings | 436,017 |
| • Aquatics | 207,467 |
| • Supervisor of Elections | 217,177 |
| • Haz Mat absorbed into Fire Rescue | 106,768 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| ✚ Water Quality absorbed into Utilities | 201,385 |
| ✚ GIS Base map completed | 564,318 |
| ✚ Operating Expenditure Reductions | 156,633 |
| ✚ Beach Lifeguards | 130,063 |
| ✚ Sheriff's Office Budget Reduction | 996,600 |
| ✚ Tax Collector Commissions | 185,383 |
| ✚ Property Appraiser Commissions | 507,902 |
| ✚ Nursing Home adjustment to actual expenditures | 55,083 |
| ✚ Insurance Fund transfer reduction | 762,492 |
| ✚ Reserve for Contingency to 1% policy | 576,141 |
| ✚ Grant match | 131,006 |
| ✚ Water/Wastewater Infrastructure match | <u>345,518</u> |
| | \$6,749,119 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Road and Bridge | |
| ✚ Insurance Transfer | 110,000 |
| ✚ Engineering Operating Expenditures | 151,629 |
| ✚ Road Maintenance | <u>520,015</u> |
| | \$781,644 |

Other Factors impacting the 2009 Budget

Fleet Utilization

The Fleet Management Division is responsible for the County's utilization of all vehicles and equipment to their maximum capacity and ensures the proper care and operation for the County's motorized fleet. Fleet Management has reduced the motorized fleet by twelve (12) pieces of equipment, delayed the purchase of ten (10) replacement vehicles for one year and modified the replacement schedule for two vehicles with excess repairs thus saving approximately \$105,000 in vehicle maintenance, fuel charges, and equipment purchases.

Energy Conditions

Energy costs including gasoline and diesel fuel, natural gas, and electricity exhibited significant price increases in 2008. County-wide Utility Services for Fiscal Year 2009 total \$3,646,109 resulting in \$455,339 or 14.3% increase from Fiscal Year 2008 total of \$3,190,770. County-wide Fuels and Lubes costs total \$2,873,714 which is an increase of \$586,347 or 25.6% from Fiscal Year 2008 fuels costs of \$2,287,367.

Travel and Training

The Board established criteria for eligible travel as requirement of job, required certification or job performance enhancement as a way to reduce the budget. During the budget process, staff examined the proposed travel and training expenditures to determine if they met the criteria established by the Board. Through this process the estimated annual saving will be \$107,000.

Other Savings

Reduced employee cell phones for a savings of \$19,500 and reduced and/or eliminated casual labor and overtime.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Since personnel costs are a significant part of the total budget, the Board focused early on to require justification and Board approval to fill any budgeted positions. At the same time, staff examined staffing levels and identified twenty-five (25) positions to be deleted in February 2008. During the budget process an additional number of fifteen (15) positions were identified to delete and ten (10) positions were added. The net position changes are a reduction of twenty-eight (28) positions and two (2) grant positions were not funded. A staff change chart is included in the supplementary section of the budget.

Employee Compensation

The Board currently operates a merit system program at an approximate annual cost of \$1.02 million. Due to the anticipated revenue limitations, the Board earlier this year, approved suspension of the merit pay program and replaced it with an across the staff increase of \$.50 per hour on the evaluation anniversary date of the employee. The cost for this plan is estimated to be \$382,000 for the Board employees in Fiscal Year 2009 budget, a savings of \$638,000.

Health Insurance

The Board had been providing a partial supplement to the health insurance premium for family coverage. This subsidy has been discontinued effective October 1, 2008 with an approximate annual savings of \$330,000. The employee premium will be \$403.62 and with the family coverage premium of \$403.62.

Workers Compensation

State of Florida's Chief Financial Officer has ordered a rate reduction in the 2008 Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund assessment rate for an estimated savings of \$275,000.

Workforce

| Department | FY2007/08 Adopted | Mid-year Change for FY 2007/08 | FY 2008/09 Recommended | Change for FY 2008/09 | Total |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Ad Valorem Funds | 396 | (2) | 384 | (10) | (14) |
| Building Division | 49 | (15) | 33 | (1) | (16) |
| Library Services | 67 | | 66 | (1) | (1) |
| Fire Rescue | 66 | (1) | 65 | | (1) |
| Special Revenue Funds | 29 | (1) | 28 | | (1) |
| Proprietary Funds | 91 | | 94 | 3 | 3 |
| Total Board Employees | 698 | (19) | 670 | (9) | (28) |
| Constitutional Offices | | | | | |
| Clerk to the Board | 28 | | 25 | (3) | (3) |
| Supervisor of Elections | 10 | | 10 | | |
| Property Appraiser | 69 | | 68 | (1) | (1) |
| Sheriff | 335 | 16 | 338 | (13) | 3 |
| Tax Collector | 66 | | 66 | | |
| Total Constitutional | 508 | 16 | 507 | (17) | (1) |

Ad Valorem Supported

The Board of County Commissioners has, in preparation for the property tax legislation, adopted the policy requiring Board review and approval prior to filling vacant positions. During this process, some positions have been identified as no longer required due to workload demands. Additionally an Animal Services Officer, County Administrator Customer Service Specialist, Extension Services Program Assistant, Inverness Community Center part-time Senior Center Aide and Parks and Recreation seasonal Lifeguard positions have been deleted from the proposed budget.

The vacant Water Quality Engineering Inspector and Engineering Project Manager positions have been eliminated and the Senior Project Engineer position has been transferred to Utilities which will be funded by user fees. The Utility Fund includes a CIP Coordinator and Engineering Inspector that have assumed these responsibilities.

Also, staff re-evaluation positions determining the essential job duties and reclassified the following positions. The Chief Assistant County Attorney to an Assistant County Attorney, Housing Services Senior Secretary to a Secretary, and two Community Development (2) Senior Planners to Planners and one (1) Principal Planner to a Senior Planner.

Special Taxing District

Library Services is adding a Library Assistant and Circulation Supervisor for the Floral City Library and deleting two (2) part-time Library Aides and a Field Librarian.

Non Ad Valorem

Mid 2008, the Building Division reduced their workforce by fifteen (15) positions and an additional Development Review/Permit Specialist will be eliminated in FY 2009.

Constitutional

The Constitutional Officers' employee component totals 503, a decrease of 1 position from FY 2008. During Fiscal Year 2008, the number of law enforcement personnel increased by sixteen (16) positions due to the Board entering into a contract with the City of Crystal River to provide law enforcement services. The Property Appraiser's FY 2009 budget includes 68 positions, representing a decrease of one position. The Clerk's FY 2009 budget includes an increase in funding for the part-time Historical Restoration position to full-time funding and decreasing three positions associated with the Board records storage in the Clerk to the Board budget to the BOCC.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Visitors and Convention Bureau –

- The Bureau's media marketing program produced 48,000 direct leads last year which were fulfilled by direct mailing the Citrus County Visitors Guide to potential visitors. Many travelers visited the Bureau on-line and this marketing has produced double the unique visits to the www.visitcitrus.com website which is currently at 26,000 per month. The Visitors Bureau's partnerships with the tourism businesses have produced 32,000 page views of the www.visitcitrus.com business value coupons which are used directly in Citrus County.

Library Services –

- The Citrus County Library System has over 76,000 active registered card holders. Citrus County citizens borrowed 631,664 library materials this past year with 44,461 users logging in 102,759 hours of public computer use. The libraries are actively engaged in programs for our youth with the presentation of 1,054 children's programs. The Homosassa Public Library has issued over 3,000 new library cards since opening in November 2007.

Extension Services –

- In 2007, 162 educational programs were presented to 3,323 residents in Citrus County and 108 newspaper articles were published in four local news media reaching a combined readership of 51,638 per issue. Volunteers for the Extension Service contributed 5208 hours of service to the community a savings of \$93.015 to the citizens of Citrus County and the extension office staff responded to 26,071 annual telephone and walk in requests for information.

Community Support Services –

- The Nature Coast Volunteer Center supported 977 volunteers that served 192,153 hours to the citizens of Citrus County at a value of \$3,606,707. The Title III grant program annually provides 104,396 home delivered and congregate meals to our elderly with the use of volunteers. Citrus County Transit provided approximately 192,000 trips for citizens for medical purposes, personal shopping and visitation to our senior centers. The Senior Club Magazine is distributed throughout the county quarterly with no taxpayer expense and has produced approximately \$10,000 in revenue for

assistance to the elderly.

Parks and Recreation –

- The total county park area increased this past year to 658 acres with the addition of the Central Ridge Park expansion. The current county park inventory includes 18 baseball/softball fields, 15 soccer and 6 multipurpose fields, and there are 26 children's play structures located with the park system. Parks & Recreation programs have provided service for 14,500 participants in instructional classes, adult leagues, and special events with 65,956 citizens utilizing our community buildings. There have been 15,723 participants utilizing the Bicentennial Park Pool this past year and there were 15,000 permits issued for field, pavilion usage and youth leagues.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Development Services –

- The Department of Development Services will focus on updating the County's development regulations, streamline the permitting process, and converting records to digital form to reduce space consumption to better manage the County's growth.

Housing Services –

- The Division of Housing Services continues to provide housing assistance in a variety of forms to qualified applicants. This includes energy assistance, housing rehab, housing replacement, and the First Time Homebuyer's program.

Building Division –

- The Building Division has reduced both staffing and costs to reflect the reduced income from permitting. The Division continues to work to streamline permitting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Rescue –

- Fire Rescue's budget reflects the purchase of one class "A" engine and delaying the refurbishment of a class "A" engine until 2010.
- Fire Rescue to establish a fire investigation program to determine the cause of accidental fires for the purpose of developing and presenting specific fire and life education programs specific to the needs of our community.
- Fire Rescue will begin the implement of phasing in 4" hose to replace the 3" hose currently in operation. The 4" hose will double the gallons per minute (GPM) flow, allowing Fire Rescue to be more effective on the fire ground and eliminating the need for multiple hose lays to provide adequate water flow.
- Fire Rescue will be implementing an explorer Cadet program. This program will allow children ages 14 and up to participate and learn about the fire service.

Code Enforcement –

- The Code Enforcement Section Nuisance Abatement budget account provides the funds to pay our contractors to abate nuisance code violations. In the coming year, due to becoming proactive, we are planning on increasing the abatement of nuisance violations such as removal of unlicensed vehicles, junk, debris, excessive growth/vegetation and unsafe structures to protect the health, safety and welfare, and to protect the aesthetics and values of properties.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering –

- Design of widening County Road 486 from Forest Ridge Boulevard to SR 44. This project will increase capacity on the roadway through construction of additional travel lanes and pedestrian facilities. Construction of the first mile of the project from Forest Ridge Blvd. to Ottawa Avenue is underway. Design for the next segment from the Black Diamond Service Road to Ottawa Avenue is nearly complete. ROW acquisition is ongoing on an as available basis. Construction of the remainder of the roadway past Ottawa Avenue will be done in Phases.
- Funding for the design of widening County Road 491 from County Road 486 to SR 44 has been approved and survey work has started. The project will increase capacity on the roadway through construction of additional travel lanes and pedestrian facilities. ROW acquisition is ongoing on an as available basis. Design for this project should be completed by the end of July 2009.

Solid Waste –

- Design and permitting of the Phase 3 section of the landfill is under way. These facilities will be completed in 2009.
- Design and permitting of a solid waste transfer station facility along with expansion, improvements and relocation of the citizen service area, scale house and household hazardous waste facility are under way. These facilities will be completed in 2010.

Aviation –

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan updates for the Crystal River and Inverness Airports were completed in October 2007 and March 2008, respectively. These Plans provide direction for the development and improvements of both Airports for the next 20 years. Staff has completed the design & bidding phases of the Inverness Airport Runway/Taxiway Relocation Project. This project will extend the runway to 5,000' and increase the taxiway/runway centerline separation as required by the FAA for safety concerns. Staff has also completed the Environmental Assessment, design, and bidding phases of the Taxiway Relocation Project at the Crystal River Airport. The taxiway/runway centerline separation at this airport is also too close and needs to be increased as required by the FAA for safety concerns. Staff has submitted grant applications to the FAA for both Projects and anticipates starting construction in November 2008. The Runway Sealing and Runway/Taxiway/Apron Marking and Striping at the Crystal River Airport Project was completed in January 2008. The construction of 12,000 square yards of additional aircraft parking apron at the Inverness Airport was completed in July 2008. The installation of an Automated Weather Observation System is currently under way at the Inverness Airport and construction should be completed in November of 2008. The design of the Watson Street Extension/Entrance for the Inverness Airport is currently underway and staff anticipates construction of this Project to be completed in December 2008.

WATER RESOURCES

- The majority of this department is the Utilities Division. The Utilities Division has increased from fewer than 5,000 customers in early 2000 to over 21,400 customers to date. This is an average growth rate of 20% per year. Utilities operates twenty-six (26) water production facilities capable of pumping up to 21 million gallons per day. Also, currently operate ten (10) wastewater treatment facilities capable of treating 2.5 million gallons per day.
- The Water Quality programs are jointly funded projects, including considerable amount of state grants which will expand service into our environmentally sensitive coastal areas. Large areas in Homosassa and Chassahowitzka will be added this year, which will allow us to serve an additional 700 households in those areas. This will allow for the removal of septic tanks that are contributing to degradation of our coastal waters. In addition, the expanding wastewater system will take package

wastewater treatment systems off line in our coastal regions. Another five (5) of those will be removed this coming year.

- The capital improvement program is guided through the implementation of water, wastewater and reuse water master plans. The water initiative, extends water mains where practical to interconnect systems both for greater reliability and to reduce costs. The wastewater treatment initiative, expands the Meadowcrest plant from a capacity of half a million gallons per day to two million gallons per day. This will provide sufficient capacity to handle another eight years of growth and expansion in the central county area. Concurrent with the expansion of Meadowcrest, the system will be upgraded to produce treated wastewater of such a quality that it can be reused. Similar upgrades will be performed at the wastewater treatment facility in Sugarmill Woods. Both will provide treated water to nearby golf courses thus replacing their groundwater withdrawals. Annually, these two plants will reduce groundwater withdrawals by up to half a billion gallons per year at current flow rates.
- Finally, this department is also managing the studies required under State and Federal laws to prepare for controlling and treating stormwater runoff. The County is about seven years into a ten year program in surveying and mapping each of the twenty (20) defined drainage basins in the county. In the next three years, these will be completed and design of storm water catchment and treatment facilities will begin. Concurrently with these studies, where there are areas that clearly need to be addressed, the County is moving ahead with project implementation. In this fiscal year, Utilities will begin installing improvements where stormwater flows directly from areas, such as, parking lots directly into nearby water bodies. Also, purchase land in areas where known stormwater catchment and treatment will need to occur.

SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

- For the FY 2009 Budget year Systems Management will continue an exhaustive review process of the recently completed GIS base map. We are coordinating implementation for the Sheriff & Emergency Operations Center, the Citrus County School Board, Mosquito Control, several State agencies, and 17 other BOCC Divisions to insure we have an Enterprise-wide GIS system that can meet the needs of everyone involved. We will continue to enhance and add functionality to the GIS website as well, offering the Public a full slate of services. In support of this effort we have added the School Board and Sheriff to the County's Fiber Optic ring and have expanded some of the infrastructure in anticipation of the increase in demand.

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2010

The Board of County Commissioners is faced with some uncertainty regarding future revenues and will face challenges in bringing new capital projects on board while continuing to meet the service delivery expectations of the community. An immediate concern will be the dollars required to fund staffing for the Central Ridge Park expansion.

CONCLUSION

The *Proposed FY 2009 Budget* is offered for Board consideration, deliberation, amendment and adoption. During the Preliminary Budget Hearings, the Board will have the opportunity to hear from and question the representatives of the various departments and agencies seeking funding in FY 2009. The Preliminary Budget Hearings will be held on Tuesday, July 29th and Wednesday, July 30th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Board meeting room. During the Board's deliberations, staff is prepared to provide assistance and additional information as the Board works towards budget adoption.

Copies of the *Proposed FY 2009 Budget* are available for public review on the Clerk's website at www.clerk.citrus.fl.us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This budget year was most challenging and the very first time we have faced a reduction in the assessed value. The Constitutional Officers, Agencies, and County Departments are to be commended for coming forward, making difficult choices and working together to deliver this balanced budget with no increase in the millage rate.

Additionally, I want to recognize the directors and staff of the various County departments who are committed to deliver services to Citrus' residents, workers and visitors in an efficient, effective and equitable manner and to build a stronger community. In the end, it is the County employees who put the annual budget into action. Every day, they respond directly or indirectly to the citizens of this community. They are the County government's greatest assets and they do an outstanding job.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony J. Schembri
County Administrator



Cathy Taylor, Director
Office of Management and Budget