Jackson County, Georgia
Executive Summary
Approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

October 20, 2014

General Information

- The FY 2014 tax rate is 11.28 mills for incorporated areas; 9.76 mills for unincorporated areas. This represents a 0.90 net mill increase in the unincorporated and a 1.16 mill increase in the incorporated areas from the FY 2013 tax rate.
    a. The total increase in the gross tax rate is one mill in each area; increased from 13.06 in 2013 to 14.06 in 2014.
    b. The difference associated with the millage rate in the two areas of the county is due to:
        i. Uneven growth between the two measured areas, and:
        ii. Application of the insurance premium tax rollback rate to the unincorporated area.

- FY 2015 total annual budget is $65,340,010, an increase of $1,831,662 or 2.88% from FY 2014.

- FY 2015 adopted General Fund budget of $37,267,020, an increase of $1,828,763 or 5.16% from FY 2014 primarily due to restructuring of debt payments to the General Fund rather the Debt Service Fund as in the prior year.

- Several major factors went into balancing the FY 2015 budget. They are as follows:

    a. Employees will not be furloughed in FY 2015 costing an estimated $534,516 in additional salaries and benefits. Furlough days as a budgetary cost-reduction measure were implemented in October, 2009 and ending in August, 2014 after 50 total furlough days.
    b. The county portion of health insurance premiums remained unchanged. Beginning in 2014, the County moved to a self-insured platform as a way to lower county costs and build a reserve fund dedicated for health insurance. It is expected that FY 2015 will begin with a $300,000 reserve and costs are anticipated to be $3,000,000.
    c. The budget was balanced with the use of $766,865 from prior years' reserves. This represents a $500,473 or 39.5% decrease in use of prior years' reserves from FY 2014. The FY 2014 adopted budget was balanced with the use of $1,267,338 from prior years' reserves. This marks the fifth year that use of prior years' reserves has been budgeted although no reserves were actually used in 2011 or 2012. FY 2013 only used reserves due to a write-off of debt owed from the Airport Authority; otherwise a net surplus was measured.
    d. Retirement funding was again left at a base contribution only for the defined contribution plan. There is no budgetary savings for FY 2015 as this is a carryover funding measure from FY 2014 for the defined contribution plan. For the defined benefit plan in 2015, the contribution was reinstated costing $561,792. This marks the fifth -year of base-match only retirement funding and the sixth overall year of employee retirement austerity.

e. In September, 2014 the County refunded and refinanced a portion of its Series 2007A revenue bonds in the amount of $9,990,000 and took the majority of the savings up front for FY 2015. The total savings amounted to $767,495 of which, $675,190 is saved for FY 2015.

- Transfers out from the General Fund are $7,721,834, a decrease of $3,432,849 or 31%. This is due to the restructuring of several funds such as debt service and capital projects, and health insurance funds so as to not distort operating costs. Transfers Out now primarily encompasses subsidies to Special revenue Funds and Component Units (such as the Airport Authority and Water & Sewerage Authority). The largest single increase in transfers out is due to a $3,000,000 transfer out to the new Health Insurance Fund as budgeting for health insurance has moved out of each department's budget and into the new fund.

- In FY 2015, appropriations for Capital Outlay have been allocated back to the respective departments, primarily found in the General Fund and are included in the Debt Service line items as part of capital lease payments. This includes $181,126 for the lease purchase payments of the following vehicles and equipment in 2015. Below are the total amounts of the equipment to be financed:

  EMS – 1 Ambulance $245,000
  Sheriff – 10 patrol vehicles $39,100 each, fully equipped.
  Fleet – 2 pickup trucks: $27,000 each
  EMA – Dive Boat $20,000

Personnel

- Salaries in the General Fund have increased $610,964 or 4.97% primarily due to:
  a. Funding for the following positions that have been requested in the recommended FY 2015 budget:
     Sheriff – added four additional deputies
     Juvenile Court – added a program coordinator (partially paid by other district counties)
     Historic Courthouse – added one part-time worker
     Probate Court – moved one part-time position to full time
     Transit – moved one part-time driver to full time

     Additional positions, not included in the General Fund:
     Drug Court – added one full-time drug court coordinator (grant funded)
     EMS – addition of 4 positions for staffing of new Med 7 unit
     E-911 – addition of 2 new dispatcher positions
     Protective Inspections – moved one part-time clerk to full-time

  b. Elimination of furlough days for FY 2015 as opposed to 9 originally budgeted for FY 2014.

- Benefits in the General Fund have decreased $2,317,474 or 51.2% primarily due to health insurance being budgeted in the new Health Insurance Fund (shown as a transfer out from the General Fund), and reinstatement of the defined benefit contribution payment for the year.

Other Information

- The total Fund Balance, based on budget, at the end of FY 2014 is expected to equal approximately $6,121,434 or 16.83% of the General Fund Revenues, exclusive of Other Financing Sources. While the aforementioned amounts are based on budget, the county may expect to end fiscal year 2014 with the full use of budgeted reserves totaling $1,267,338. The FY 2015 budget was balanced with the use of prior years' reserves in the amount of $766,865.

- The FY 2015 Capital Projects Fund was eliminated for budgeting use in FY 2015 as the debt service offset from the 2009 economic development bonds will not be used to offset debt service payments in 2015 as has been used in previous years. FY 2014 used $1,500,000 from this fund.

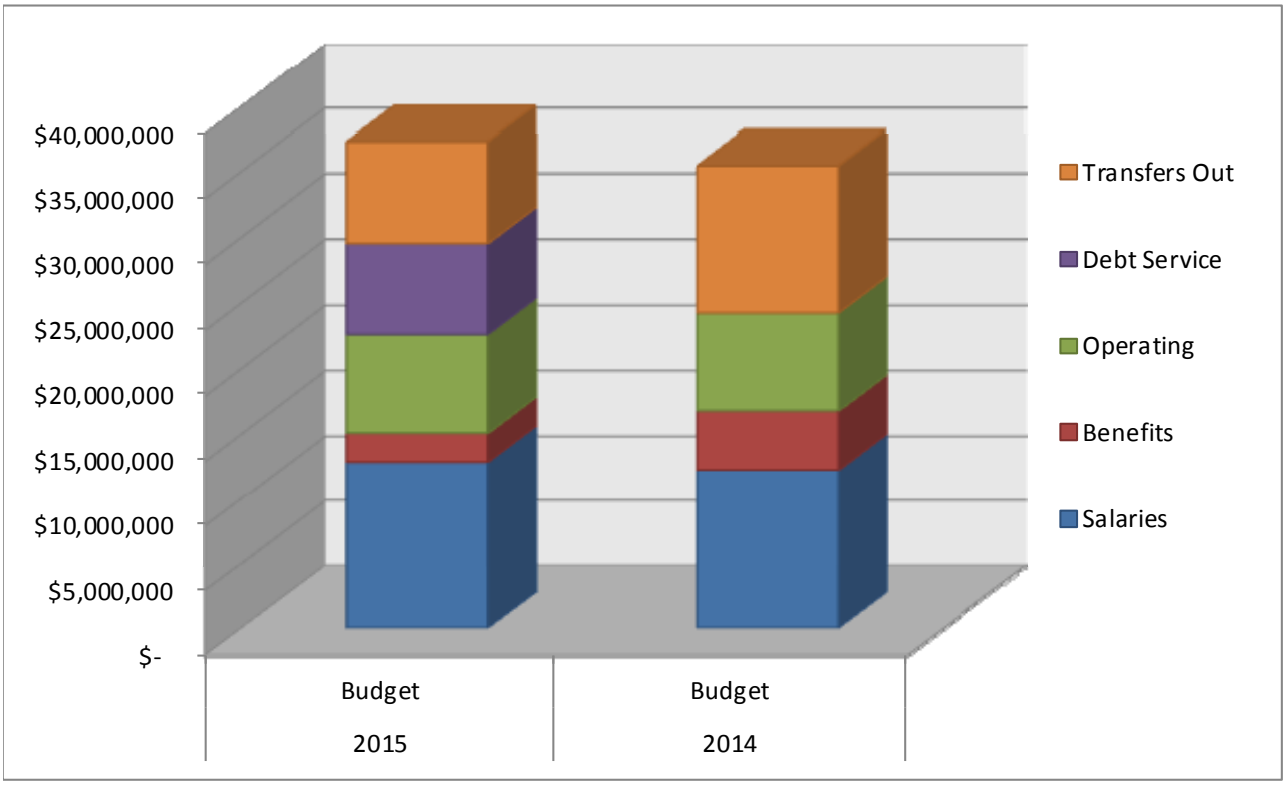
- Jackson County's anticipated decline in the 2014 Total Net Digest of $12,670,136 has caused a decrease of approximately $77,399 or 0.42% in real & personal property taxes from the prior year. However, these figures do not include a property tax increase in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas.

- For FY 2015, the transfer out to the Airport Authority includes not only the operational subsidy but also the principal payment for debt service so that additional debt payments are not accumulated as "due to the primary government" from the airport authority. In total the transfer out to the Airport Authority is $215,000.

- Total Debt service ultimately paid for from the General Fund (either in general fund departments or through transfers out to other funds) totals $8,959,770 for FY 2015. This accounts for 24% of the total General Fund expenditures. As a millage rate component, the unincorporated share of debt equals approximately 2.341 mills of tax and the incorporated share equals approximately 2.705 mills of tax. In total, there are 4.577 total mills of tax allocated for debt based on a total net digest bringing in $1,957,628 per mill.

FY 2015 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AT A GLANCE

	2015 Budget	2014 Budget	Percent of Total	Difference 2015-2014	Percent Change
Salaries	$ 12,898,342	$ 12,287,378	34.61%	$ 610,964	4.97%
Benefits	2,205,321	4,522,795	5.92%	(2,317,474)	-51.24%
Operating	7,547,914	7,473,401	20.25%	74,513	1.00%
Debt Service	6,893,609	-	18.50%	6,893,609	n/a
Transfers Out	7,721,834	11,154,683	20.72%	(3,432,849)	-30.77%
Total	**$ 37,267,020**	**$ 35,438,257**	**100%**	**$ 1,828,763**	**5.16%**



JACKSON COUNTY, GEORGIA
SUMMARY OF BUDGETS BY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

10/20/2014

	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	TOTAL SPLOST(s) PROJECTS FUND	TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	TOTAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
REVENUES:						
PROPERTY TAXES	$ 22,679,281	$ 2,477,799	$ -	$ -		$ 25,157,081
SALES TAX	5,550,000	-	7,920,000	-		13,470,000
OTHER TAXES	2,315,000	-	-	-		2,315,000
LICENSES & PERMITS	146,900	295,400	-	-		442,300
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	1,801,707	345,096	-	-		2,146,803
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	2,746,600	3,687,994	-	1,532,596		7,967,190
FINES & FORFEITURES	1,022,500	-	-	-		1,022,500
OTHER REVENUES	111,500	-	-	35,000		146,500
TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 36,373,488**	**$ 6,806,289**	**$ 7,920,000**	**$ 1,567,596**		**$ 52,667,374**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES						
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN	$ 126,667	$ 2,511,046	$ 108,636	$ (0)	$ 3,000,000	$ 5,746,349
TRANSFERS IN FROM COMPONENT UNITS	-	-	-	-		-
SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	-	-	-	-		-
PROCEEDS FROM CAPITAL LEASES	-	-	-	-		-
PRIOR YEAR FUND BALANCE	766,865	-	6,159,423	-		6,926,288
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	**$ 37,267,020**	**$ 9,317,336**	**$ 14,188,059**	**$ 1,567,596**	**$ 3,000,000**	**$ 65,340,010**
EXPENDITURES:						
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	**$ 4,419,514**	**$ 297,562**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 4,717,076**
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	**$ 11,858,259**	**$ 6,764,974**	**$ 200,000**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 18,823,233**
TOTAL COURT SYSTEM	**$ 3,043,647**	**$ 154,935**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,043,647**
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	**$ 1,538,275**	**$ -**	**$ 1,133,333**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 2,671,608**
TOTAL HEALTH & WELFARE	**$ 133,183**	**$ 538,118**	**$ -**	**$ 1,567,596**	**$ -**	**$ 2,238,897**
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION	**$ -**	**$ 1,127,005**	**$ 333,333**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 1,460,338**
SUBTOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 20,992,878**	**$ 8,882,594**	**$ 1,666,666**	**$ 1,567,596**	**$ -**	**$ 32,954,799**
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES/MUNICIPALITIES	**$ 346,680**	**$ -**	**$ 2,295,391**	**$ -**		**$ 2,642,071**
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	**$ 1,312,019**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,000,000**	**$ 4,312,019**
DEBT SERVICE	**$ 6,893,608**	**$ 308,075**	**$ 10,226,002**	**$ -**		**$ 17,427,686**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 29,545,185**	**$ 9,190,669**	**$ 14,188,059**	**$ 1,567,596**	**$ 3,000,000**	**$ 57,336,574**
OTHER FINANCING USES:						
OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT[1]	**$ 7,721,834**	**$ 126,667**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 7,848,501**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	**$ 37,267,020**	**$ 9,317,336**	**$ 14,188,059**	**$ 1,567,596**	**$ 3,000,000**	**$ 65,340,011**
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	**$ -**	**$ (0)**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ (0)**
EXPECTED TOTAL FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	**$ 6,121,434**	**$ 3,806,365**	**$ 14,509,372**	**$ -**	**$ 300,000**	**$ 24,737,171**
ASSIGNED, UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	**$ 4,828,586**					
Use of Fund Balance in FY15 Budget:	**$ (766,865)**	**$ -**	**$ (6,159,423)**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ (6,926,288)**
EXPECTED FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS END OF YEAR - TOTAL	**$ 5,354,569**	**$ 3,806,365**	**$ 8,349,949**	**$ -**	**$ 300,000**	**$ 17,810,883**
EXPECTED FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS END OF YEAR - ASSIGNED, UNASSIGNED	**$ 4,061,721**					

[1]The difference between operating transfers-in and operating transfers-out are the transfers to component units.
Health Department: $275,000, Airport, $215,000, Water Authority, $1,612,152 - TOTAL $2,102,152

Capital Projects: All equipment is budgeted within respective departments and associated debt paid from those departments from capital leases.

Debt Service Fund: All debt payments have been placed back into the respective departments so as to not overstate the budget through multiple transfers in/out

SPLOST Project Fund(s) shows large increase due to showing the budgeted activity of Prior Years' fund balance being appropriated for debt service in 2015 from both SPLOST 4 residuals and SPLOST 5 funds that have accumulated in the sinking fund for the Jail Debt Service payment.

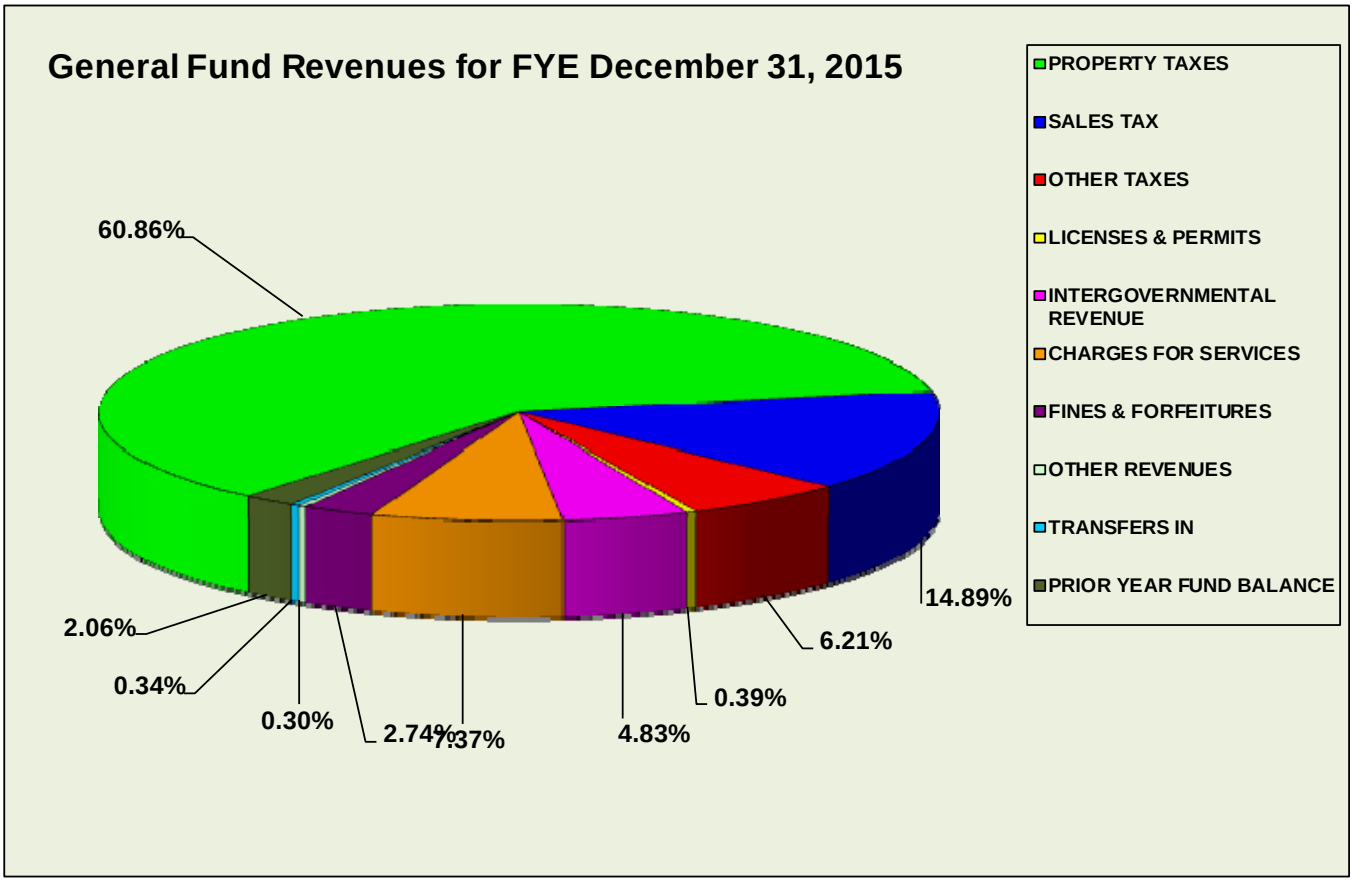
FY 2015 Transfers Out from the General Fund

		TRANSFERS OUT				
	NUMBER	2014 BUDGET	2014 ESTIMATE	2015 REQUEST	DIFFERENCE 2015-2014	PERCENT CHANGE
OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE						
Transfers Out - Transfer Station	5536.0999	$ 270,980	$ 150,000	$ -	$ (270,980)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - Courthouse	5121.0999	1,356,175	1,356,175	-	(1,356,175)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - County Agent	5128.0999	-	-		-	n/a
Transfers Out - Building Inspections	5131.0999	-	17,527	-	-	n/a
Transfers Out - Planning & Zoning	5132.0999	221,080	222,000	128,829	(92,251)	-41.73%
Transfers Out - Maintenance	5139.0999	13,028	13,028	-	(13,028)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - Economic Development	5142.0999	3,486,348	3,486,348	-	(3,486,348)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - J.C.C.I.	5225.0999	19,606	19,606	-	(19,606)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - Engineering - Public Development	5427.0999	-	-	-	-	n/a
Transfers Out - E911	5259.0999	168,402	225,000	142,285	(26,117)	-15.51%
Transfers Out - Fire Training Center	5266.0999	93,515	93,515	-	(93,515)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - Fleet Maintenance	5474.0999	22,702	22,702	-	(22,702)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - Keep Jackson Beautiful	5544.0999	47,909	64,000	62,910	15,001	31.31%
Transfers Out - Senior Center	5558.0999	297,307	297,307	277,053	(20,254)	-6.81%
Transfers Out - Roads & Bridges	5426.0999	18,299	18,299	-	(18,299)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - EMS/Ambulance	5222.0999	1,392,937	1,002,010	1,060,521	(332,416)	-23.86%
Transfers Out - Hurricane Shoals	5632.0999	87,951	75,600	73,825	(14,126)	-16.06%
Transfers Out - Recreation	5657.0999	778,350	660,000	684,180	(94,170)	-12.10%
Transfers Out - Health Dept.	5527.0339	275,000	275,000	275,000	-	0.00%
Transfers Out - Airport	5152.0999	232,078	232,078	215,000	(17,078)	-7.36%
Transfers Out - Water Authority	5580.0999	1,972,516	1,572,516	1,612,152	(360,364)	-18.27%
Transfers Out - Emergency Management Agency	5260.0999	-	66,451	81,443	81,443	n/a
Transfers Out- Health Insurance Fund	5150.0999	-	2,626,255	3,000,000		
Transfers Out - Sheriff's Department	5218.0999	367,365	367,365		(367,365)	-100.00%
Transfers Out - Debt Service Reserve/JAIL DEBT	5110.0999	-	-	108,636	108,636	n/a
Transfers Out - Commerce Sewer Expansion	5576.0999	33,134	33,134		(33,134)	-100.00%
Total Transfers Out		**$ 11,154,682**	**$ 12,895,916**	**$ 7,721,834**	**$ (3,432,848)**	**-30.77%**

Component Unit	Enterprise Fund	Splost/Debt	Total
2,102,152	**-**	**108,636**	**7,721,834**
Health Insurance	Debt	Special Rev. Fund	
3,000,000	**-**	**2,511,046**	

PROPOSED 2015 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND SOURCES SUMMARY

REVENUE AND OTHER SOURCES	APPROVED 2014 BUDGET	REQUESTED 2015 BUDGET	PERCENT 0F 2015 TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2014 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE 2015-2014
PROPERTY TAXES	$ 20,698,500	$ 22,679,281	60.86%	$ 1,980,781	9.57%
SALES TAX	5,500,000	5,550,000	14.89%	50,000	0.91%
OTHER TAXES	2,189,000	2,315,000	6.21%	126,000	5.76%
LICENSES & PERMITS	146,900	146,900	0.39%	-	0.00%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	1,661,161	1,801,707	4.83%	140,546	8.46%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	2,635,200	2,746,600	7.37%	111,400	4.23%
FINES & FORFEITURES	1,021,500	1,022,500	2.74%	1,000	0.10%
OTHER REVENUES	105,200	111,500	0.30%	6,300	5.99%
TOTAL REVENUES	**33,957,461**	**36,373,488**	**97.60%**	**2,416,027**	**7.11%**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
TRANSFERS IN	213,458	126,667	0.34%	(86,791)	-40.66%
PRIOR YEAR FUND BALANCE	1,267,338	766,865	2.06%	(500,473)	n/a
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	**$ 35,438,257**	**$ 37,267,020**	**100.0%**	**$ 1,828,763**	**5.16%**



PROPOSED 2015 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS SUMMARY

FUNCTION	APPROVED 2014 BUDGET	APPROVED 2015 BUDGET	PERCENT OF 2015 TOTAL	CHANGE FROM 2014 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE 2015-2014
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	$ 4,719,942	$ 4,419,514	11.86%	$ (300,428)	-6.37%
PUBLIC SAFETY	12,721,886	12,306,140	33.02%	(415,746)	-3.27%
COURT SYSTEM	3,344,313	3,043,646	8.17%	(300,667)	-8.99%
PUBLIC WORKS	1,737,933	1,596,491	4.28%	(141,442)	-8.14%
HEALTH AND WELFARE	75,886	133,183	0.36%	57,297	75.50%
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	343,080	346,680	0.93%	3,600	1.05%
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	1,340,534	7,699,532	20.66%	6,358,998	474.36%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**24,283,574**	**29,545,186**	**79.28%**	**5,261,612**	**21.67%**
OTHER FINANCING USES					
TRANSFERS OUT	11,154,683	7,721,834	20.72%	(3,432,849)	-30.77%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	**$ 35,438,257**	**$ 37,267,020**	**100%**	**$ 1,828,763**	**5.16%**

