



Dallas County FY2015 Budget-In-Brief

For the Fiscal Year beginning
October 1, 2014
and ending
September 30, 2015

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This Budget-in-Brief contains summary information on the most important decisions made during the County's annual financial and operational planning process. The full County budget, the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, the Performance Measures Report, and the line item detail budget are also available

to interested citizens wishing to understand the County's operations in more depth.

If we can be of further assistance or provide additional copies of this document, please call, write or email the Dallas County

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Cover Image: the cover image shows the newly built Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge with new development in the background. Photo by: Alejandro Moreno



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Texas county government is generally an extension of state government, focusing on the judicial system, health and welfare service delivery, law enforcement, and road construction. In contrast to other parts of the country, Texas counties seldom have responsibility for schools, water and sewer systems, electric utilities, and commercial airports. County governments in Texas have no ordinance-making powers other than those explicitly and narrowly granted by state law.

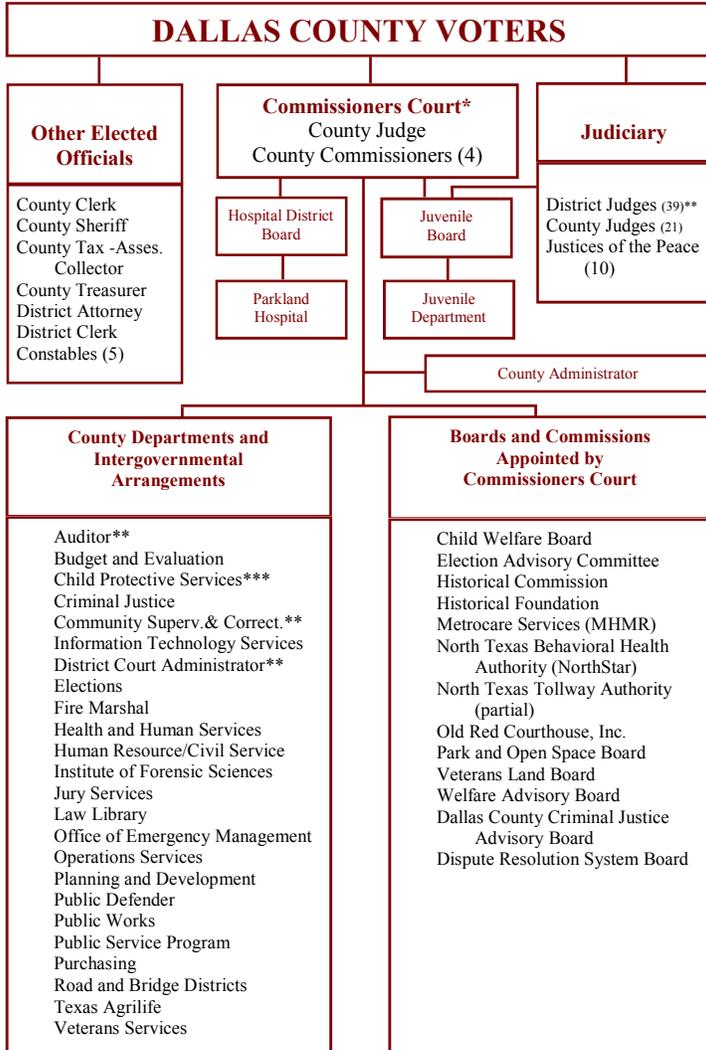
Dallas County shares organizational features with the state's other 253 counties: its governing body (the Commissioners Court) consists of one member elected at large (the County Judge) and four members (County Commissioners) elected from districts. In Dallas County, the County Judge is an executive and administrator in addition to their duties as presiding officer of the Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Judge has no judicial responsibilities, unlike those in smaller Texas counties.

The Commissioners Court sets the County tax rate, adopts the budget, appoints boards and commissions, approves grants and personnel actions, and oversees the administration of county government. Each commissioner also supervises a Road and Bridge District. The Commissioners Court also approves the budget and sets the tax rate for the hospital district, which is charged with the responsibility for providing acute medical care for citizens who otherwise would not receive adequate medical services.

Other elected officials are the County and District Clerks, Tax Assessor Collector, Sheriff, District Attorney, Treasurer, and five Constables. All trial court judges (District Judges, County Court Judges and Justices of the Peace) are also elected. The State District Judges in each county select the County Auditor, who serves as the chief accountant for the county.

The Commissioners Court of Dallas County serves as both the legislative and executive branch of government, with budget authority over most county departments, including those headed by other elected officials. The high number of elected officials, including many with judicial authority, creates an organizational structure quite unlike the more familiar council-manager hierarchy. The diagram on the following page portrays the organizational structure of Dallas County.

ORGANIZATION



* Members of the Commissioners Court serve on the following boards and committees: Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, Dallas County Juvenile Board, Deferred Compensation Committee, NACO Large Urban Counties Caucus, Texas Conference of Urban Counties Chair, Texas Association of Regional Councils, IH635 Coordination Committee, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Board, Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, Public Health Advisory Board, North Texas Commission, DFW Partners in Mobility, Regional Transportation Council, NCTCOG Air Carrier Policy Council, Loop 9 Policy Advisory Group, Texas 21 Statewide Transportation Coalition; Mental Health Task Force, Dallas County DWI Task Force, Community Justice Council, Dallas County Housing Finance Corporation, Dalhoma Trail Advisory Committee, Dallas County Civil Service Commission, and Public Employee Benefit Cooperative Board.

** The 39 District Judges appoint the County Auditor, the District Court Administrator, and participate in selecting the Directors of the Juvenile Department, and the Community Supervision and Corrections.

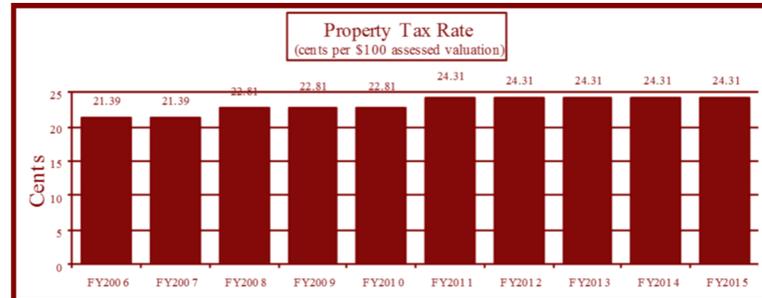
*** CSCD and CPS are independent agencies with important County programmatic connections (see page 12).

FY2015 BUDGET

Overview – The Dallas County budget is developed annually and intends to provide efficient, effective and controlled usage of the County’s resources, as well as a means to accomplish the highest priorities of the Dallas County Commissioners. Through the budget, the County Commissioners set the direction of the County, allocate its resources and establish its priorities. The FY2015 Budget meets the key established policy directive of the Commissioners Court requiring that the budgeted ending balance of the General Fund be no less than 10.5% of budgeted expenditures.

The FY2015 budget process was primarily focused on carefully evaluating and determining what new resources would be added and providing employees a compensation increase including reinstatement of the Law Enforcement Step Plan.

The final FY2015 budget was adopted on September 16, 2014 with total General Fund expenditures of \$464.5 million, an increase of \$8.5 million (1.8%) over the projected FY2014 expenditures of \$456 million. The FY2015 all funds budget is \$901.2 million. The County’s property tax rate was not changed from the prior year’s rate of \$24.31 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The following chart depicts the historical level of the County’s property tax rate. Dallas County’s Tax Rate continues to be one of the lowest of urban counties in Texas.



Program adjustments – The FY2015 budget included the addition of 59 positions and the deletion of 23 positions for a net county-wide increase of 36 positions. The majority of the position additions were related to the following: a) 24 positions related to the opening of the new portion of Letot; b) 10 positions for Facilities as we upgrade the maintenance level of our infrastructure; c) 2 Internal Auditor positions to increase the scope of our internal audits; and d) 2 Building Security Dispatchers to monitor the various security cameras in County buildings.

THEMES

Capital Improvement Program – The County entered the sixteenth full year of its cash-financed Capital Improvement Program (see page 20) by allocating funding in the amount of \$40 million for various transportation projects, \$2.5 million for open space trails/acquisitions and \$35.5 million for various building upgrades and enhancements.

Workforce Investment – Dallas County reinstated the law enforcement and judicial step plans and provided exempt and non-exempt employees a merit pool of 5%. In addition, Dallas County is offering a Health Savings Account health plan for 2015 with substantial seed funding in order to allow employees to meet the health plans deductibles.

Property Tax Freeze for 65 and Older Taxpayers – During FY2007 Dallas County Commissioners Court approved the optional Property Tax Freeze for 65 and Older Taxpayers. Starting with their 2008 Property Tax Statement Dallas County residents who were 65 or older in 2007 saw their taxes owed for Dallas County not change regardless of increase in Tax Rate or Dallas Central Appraisal District Property Assessment increases.

Performance Budgeting – The Commissioners Court continues to improve the performance reporting for the County, which now consists of three quarterly volumes of measures, targets and an evaluation process to insure that the data is continually reviewed and understood. Performance information is placed on the County’s website each quarter. During FY2002, Dallas County received a ‘B’ rating from *Governing Magazine* for its efforts in the area. During FY2007 Dallas County approved a 10-year Strategic Plan which contained five visions; 1) Dallas County is a model interagency partner, 2) Dallas County is a healthy community, 3) Dallas County is safe, secure and prepared, 4) Dallas County proactively addresses critical regional issues, and 5) Dallas County is the destination of choice for residents and businesses.

Summary – The FY2015 Budget continues the tradition of strong fiscal management and accountability. The County’s AAA/Aaa bond rating is intact and unchallenged. Tax levels remain modest as the most difficult social problems are addressed. Future challenges center on controlling Dallas County’s inmate population, continuing the transition from bond financing to cash financing of capital projects, staffing the medical inmate facility, and developing plans to be able to fully implement Cite and Release (writing tickets for small amounts of Marijuana) and proving a plan and staffing to be able to draw blood on DWI defendants that refuse to take a breath analyzer test. It is also anticipated that during FY2015 the City/County joint radio structure upgrade will be awarded.

BUDGET

FY2014 ACTUAL (\$1,000)

	Approp.	Reserve	Total
OPERATING FUND GROUP			
General Fund	456,012	63,563	519,575
Perm. Improvement Fund	5,032	1,051	6,083
Major Technology Fund	23,161	2,422	25,583
Major Capital Development Fund	78,319	42,870	121,189
Road and Bridge Operations	33,573	27,372	60,945
Dispute Resolution Fund	538	2,335	2,874
Law Library Fund	970	176	1,146
Subtotal - Operating Funds	597,605	139,789	737,394
less::: Transfers within Group	1,727	0	1,727
Group Total	595,878	139,789	735,667
DEBT SERVICE GROUP			
Road Bond Reserve Fund	41,680	27,069	68,749
Interest and Debt Fund	31,665	3,126	34,791
Subtotal - Debt Service	73,345	30,195	103,540
less: Transfers within Group	7,500	0	0
Group Total	65,845	30,195	96,040
OTHER FUNDS GROUP			
Grants/Section 8 Funds	114,791	8,290	123,081
Historical Exhibit Fund	3,539	418	3,957
Historical Commission Fund	2	9	11
Appellate Court Fund	315	110	425
Subtotal - Other Funds	118,647	8,827	127,474
Less: Transfers within Group	0	0	0
Group Total	118,647	8,827	127,474
Less: Transfers among Groups	38,454	0	38,454
GRAND TOTAL	741,916	178,811	920,727

SUMMARY

FY2015 BUDGET (\$1,000)

Approp.	Reserves	Total	Difference In Totals
464,545	48,789	513,334	(6,241)
757	4,102	4,859	(1,224)
25,607	26	25,633	(49)
65,802	55,030	120,832	(356)
52,890	12,523	65,413	4,468
587	2,429	3,016	142
1,085	0	1,085	(61)
611,273	122,899	734,172	(3,222)
3,948	0	3,948	2,221
607,325	122,899	730,224	(5,443)
52,787	12,076	64,863	(3,886)
29,709	3,120	32,829	(1,961)
82,496	15,196	97,692	(5,848)
7,500	0	0	0
74,996	15,196	90,192	(5,848)
121,679	0	121,679	(1,402)
3,919	0	3,919	(38)
2	7	9	(2)
409	0	409	(17)
126,009	7	126,016	(1,731)
0	0	0	0
126,009	7	126,016	(1,731)
29,401	0	29,401	(9,053)
778,929	138,102	917,031	(3,696)

JUSTICE

Dallas County provides facilities and support services for the operation of District Courts, County Courts, and Justice of the Peace Courts. The District and County Clerks, in addition to providing passports, marriage licenses, etc., perform those administrative functions associated with processing cases and collecting fines and court fees. The District Attorney's Office prosecutes offenders on behalf of the people, while the Public Defender is responsible for the legal defense of individuals who cannot afford representation, as determined by a judge. Dallas County judges operate the jury system which provides jurors for the 70 courts. The Frank Crowley Courts Building, the George L. Allen, Sr. Courts Building, and the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center are largely dedicated to court and court-related activities, while the Justices of the Peace operate from sub-courthouses which are located throughout the County.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Dallas County Courts operate a variety of specialty court programs including: Bond Drug Court, Dallas County Mental Health Jail Diversion Court, Dallas County Veterans Court, Dallas County DWI Misdemeanor DIVERT Court, Dallas County DWI felony DIVERT Court and Dallas County Felony Female Offender STAR court.

Many of the specialty courts operate similar to County Criminal Court #9 Positive Recovery Intensive Divert Experience (PRIDE) program. The PRIDE program is a specialty drug divert court for defendants charged with misdemeanor prostitution. The project follows the guidelines established by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The grant activities include intensive case management services, substance abuse counseling geared toward promoting behavioral changes that lead to a clean and sober lifestyle and providing clean, safe and drug-free housing.

JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION	STAFFING (not including grants)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
County Clerk	207	175	201	199	193
County Courts	84	77	86	85	77
District Attorney	376	345	408	412	412
District Clerk	254	249	257	260	256
District Courts	164	153	171	146	146
Jury/Grand Jury	7	7	7	7	8
Justices of the Peace	137	128	129	122	112
Truancy Courts	37	37	37	41	42
Public Defender	105	105	108	119	118
Total	1,371	1,276	1,404	1,391	1,364

ADMINISTRATION

Dallas County purchased and is renovating a warehouse on Panoramic Circle Drive in the Lone Star Industrial Park off of I-30 to be used as a long term Records Storage facility with funding from the County Clerk's Archive fund as well as County funding for additional space for County records. The County's Public Service Program and surplus equipment will be stored at this location. In addition, the County will move the Office of Emergency Management and the emergency operations center to this location.

In FY2012, the County Clerk announced that all of the Dallas County's official public records from 1846 to current have been made available to the public online. This represents approximately sixteen (16) million documents or 125 million pages. As part of the FY2015 Budget, the District Attorney's Office was authorized an attorney and investigator to review all police shootings.

During FY2013, Commissioners Court authorized the Public Defenders Office to create a capital murder division with three attorneys, an investigator, and a legal assistant. The creation of this unit will significantly decrease the amount of court appointed attorney costs on capital murder cases including cases when the State is seeking the death penalty.

TRUANCY ENFORCEMENT

During FY2003, Commissioners Court supported legislation to allow the County Judge to appoint truancy court masters to hear truancy court cases filed by the Dallas Independent School District. This change allowed the cases to be moved from the City of Dallas Municipal courts which were operated in Dallas County facilities with Dallas County staff and Municipal Judges. This legislation improved the efficiency of the truancy courts.

DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING (\$1,000)

FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
8,240	7,029	9,731	9,380	10,197
10,078	10,683	10,185	10,801	10,077
34,386	35,200	37,039	41,174	43,488
12,420	11,878	12,672	12,718	13,434
21,541	30,894	25,568	32,694	21,109
2,069	2,449	2,415	2,108	2,374
7,492	6,700	6,571	6,667	6,709
2,088	2,208	2,588	2,454	2,947
9,755	10,170	11,203	11,536	12,746
108,652	118,694	117,972	129,532	123,081

LAW

The County's law enforcement efforts are led by the Sheriff, who is responsible for the four County jails and various related activities including a central kitchen, laundry, and photo lab. The Sheriff also has a patrol division which operates in the unincorporated portion of the County. The five elected Constables serve civil papers and criminal warrants throughout the County, and in addition, serve as bailiffs in the 10 Justice of the Peace Courts. The Institute of Forensic Sciences is supervised by the County Medical Examiner and includes the morgue and a regional crime lab with a wide array of diagnostic tools available for analyzing evidence in criminal cases. Community Supervision and Corrections and the Public Service Program operate work-related alternatives to incarceration. The Fire Marshall provides fire and emergency services to the unincorporated areas of the County. The Office of Emergency Management coordinates County-wide emergency preparedness.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

As a result of the inmate population Dallas County has three jails (Suzanne Kays, North Tower and West Tower) fully open. The new Suzanne Kays, next to the North and West Towers, was opened in FY2009. Dallas County continues to convene the monthly Jail Population Committee that meets to review and make recommendations concerning the improvement of County operations directly linked to lowering the jail population. In addition, the Dallas County Pre-Trial Release Program, which provides low cost bonds to eligible inmates, will also look into opportunities to further reduce the population of non-violent offenders within the Dallas County Jail.

During FY2010, Dallas County became a certified jail by the State Jail Commission after several years of improvements. Dallas County has passed each subsequent annual inspection.

During FY2015 Dallas County will continue implementing physical

LAW ENFORCEMENT	STAFFING (not including grants)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Constables	182	125	124	123	122
Inst. of Forensic Sci.	113	108	113	115	114
Public Service Prog.	18	16	18	20	20
Sec. & Emer. Mgmt.	42	36	38	38	41
Sheriff	2,202	2,169	2,157	2,169	2,165
Total	2,557	2,454	2,450	2,171	2,459

ENFORCEMENT

plant improvements within the Jails including changing out the water controls in the North Tower, installing stainless steel showers in the South Tower and completing the construction of the Medical Modification project that will add 146 Mental Health bunks and 137 Medical bunks.

For FY2015, the Regional Transportation Council agreed to provide Dallas County \$618,000 to continue the Sheriff's / Constable Clean Air Task Force focusing on improving air quality through the enforcement of ensuring all vehicles have up-to-date inspection stickers and fraudulent inspection stations are shut down.

For FY2015, the City of Dallas will contribute \$600,000, Regional Transportation Council will contribute \$1,000,000 and the City of Duncanville will contribute \$59,000 to assist in covering the cost of operating the Sheriff's Traffic Program.

Dallas County continues to function as the municipal jail for the City of Dallas, this inter-local agreement is now in its 29th year, provides efficiencies for both jurisdictions. In addition, Dallas County houses inmates on behalf of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), and the Baylor hospital system.

The Office of Emergency Management coordinates county-wide emergency preparedness and will move into the new Dallas County emergency management operations center on Panoramic Circle Drive in the Lone Star Industrial Park in FY2015

The new Institute of Forensic Sciences opened in January 2011 along with the implementation of the LIMS electronic case tracking system.

The Public Service Program continues to use Community Service individuals (defendants working to pay off fines and fees owed to Dallas County in lieu of serving time in jail) to perform various manual tasks around Dallas County such as the painting of County facilities.

DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING (\$1,000)				
FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
16,113	6,813	8,630	8,916	9,098
10,312	11,257	10,792	11,890	12,914
817	832	966	1,160	1,134
2,917	3,471	2,540	3,319	2,878
141,097	138,164	148,812	151,518	146,670
172,072	160,537	171,740	176,720	171,379

HEALTH AND

The County has broad responsibilities for public health, social services, mental health services, and acute care for indigents, which it disposes through a combination of intergovernmental arrangements and County staff in the Health and Human Services Department. Child Protective Services is a state agency which cooperates with the County to ensure the safety of abused or neglected children. The County shares certain mental health responsibilities with Dallas MetroCare Services, an agency whose board is appointed by the Commissioners Court. In addition, the County participates in the NorthSTAR program for managed mental health care.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services / Older Adult Services Program addresses many of the special needs of individuals age 60 and older through programs and services offered at 11 senior centers / nutrition sites and 5 independent nutrition sites throughout Dallas County. The project has been a cooperative effort between Dallas County, local churches, nonprofit organizations and municipalities for the past 40 years. The program is funded by Dallas County, Dallas Area Agency on Aging and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

Older Adult Services Program senior centers offer daily programs which include a noon meal, recreation and physical activities, health screening services, social services, informational and educational presentations and transportation. Through these programs, the Older Adult Services Program meets the social and emotional needs of older persons, while at the same time improving their nutritional status and helping them remain health and independent.

As part of the FY2015 Budget, Commissioners Court provided \$250,000 in funding to support the Dallas Child Advocacy Center (DCAC). The DCAC provides a center that is a place of healing and hope for the most severely abused children in Dallas County. Dallas County's funding reimburses DCAC for case information requests, staff court preparation, court testimony, client court preparation, Kids in Court program, forensic interview pre-and post-meetings and family advocate support.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	STAFFING (not including grants)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Child Protective Serv	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Human Serv	147.5	127.5	133	149.5	155.5
Mental Health	0	0	0	0	0
Total	147.5	146.5	147.5	149.5	155.5

*Includes Employee Health Center

SOCIAL SERVICES

When CPS Investigative staff receive an allegation of abuse or neglect. They go out and investigate the situation and determine that while abuse/neglect may have occurred, or there is a high risk of abuse/neglect, the situation does not warrant removal of the children from the custody of their parents. There may be legitimate concern for the safety and welfare of the children, but not to the point of CPS taking legal action. What other options does the investigative staff have? One of the options that has been effective is to refer the family to Family Based Safety Services (FBSS). These are services provided to families in the home, with the children still in the home or with the child(ren) temporarily placed by the parent or legal guardian with a friend or relative. These services provide many benefits to families, such as parents still have custody of their children, more interaction with a caseworker who has more time to provide services that prevent future risk to the children, and services are normally completed within 4 to 6 months. In summary, FBSS affords families the opportunity to work through abuse/neglect issues in what would seem to be a more preferable method. Children remain in the custody of parents, caring workers spend time with the family helping to reduce risk to the children, and cases are time sensitive.

In FY2015, Dallas County continued its \$1 million contribution to the City of Dallas’s “Bridge” which provides solutions for homelessness by developing, coordinating, and/or delivering shelter, homeless recovery, and housing services. By doing so, our community is benefited through an increased quality of life.

Dallas County is one of seven counties that make up the NorthStar region for Mental Health Services. The NorthStar region is the only region of the State that has services provided through a managed services provider Value Options. In addition, the NorthStar region is the only one in the state that does not have a waiting list for services.

Value Options is jointly managed by the State and a local Board appointed by the Commissioners Courts. The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) provides liaison activities between the consumer and Value Options the managed care pre provider of NorthStar. The NTBHA may be reached by calling (214) 366 - 9407.

DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING (\$1,000)				
FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
2,246	2,377	2,184	2,651	2,702
9,349	9,892	9,288	13,001	14,310
4,550	4,560	5,284	5,602	5,607
16,145	16,829	16,756	21,254	22,619

JUVENILE

The Juvenile Department provides services for youth ages 10-16 who become involved in the juvenile justice system as a result of C.H.I.N.S. or delinquent conduct. The department reports to the Juvenile Board for programmatic direction, although the Commissioners Court retains budgetary authority. Services are provided in five County-operated facilities as well as satellite offices. The 392-bed secure facility at the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center is used to detain youth who are alleged to be in violation of the law and are considered dangerous. The Lyle B. Medlock Youth treatment Center is a 96-bed secure post-adjudication juvenile facility. The Dallas County Youth Village is an 80 -bed community-based treatment facility aimed at promoting positive behavioral change. The Marcelle C. Hill is a 54-bed short-term residential facility for adolescents with unstable home environments. Letot Center provides short-term residential placement and counseling for runaways and truants in an effort to prevent their return to the juvenile justice system. Probation Officers and counselors work with adolescents adjudicated in the juvenile justice system.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The FY2015 Budget for the Juvenile Department continues many budget balancing strategies implemented in FY2011. Due to lower projected populations, staffing patterns were reduced in several locations. The Hill Center reduced capacity from 54 to 48, Youth Village reduced capacity from 80 to 72, the Detention Center reduced capacity from 252 to 232, the START program will reduce capacity from 50 to 40, and MOU reduced capacity from 20 to 10.

As part of the FY2011 Budget balancing strategies, the Juvenile Department created a new 60 bed Residential Drug Treatment (RDT) Program to be housed in the Detention Center. The program provides services for youth currently treated by the Medlock Youth Treatment Center as well as residential contract providers. The program will reduce the average length of stay from 160 days for current contract providers to 90 days resulting in a projected overall reduction of average daily population (ADP) of 45. The program required 16 new positions and the reassignment of 32 existing positions. By providing these services in-house and lowering ADP, the new RDT program generated a savings of \$1.85 million.

In late 2012, Dallas County and the Letot Center Capital Foundation broke ground on a new Letot Girl’s Residential Treatment Center

JUVENILE SERVICES	STAFFING (not including grants)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Juvenile	669	674	700	701	701

SERVICES

designed and developed specifically for girls ages 13 to 17 to address their unique issues: extreme abuse, prostitution, and abandonment.

This 55,000 square foot facility is made possible by a capital campaign to secure \$8.7 million in private sector funds. Upon completion of construction during FY2015, the facility will be turned over to Dallas County to operate. Nationally unique, this highly structured, six to twelve month residential program will have the capacity to serve up to 96 girls at a time and serves as a model for addressing the complex issues of human trafficking and girls that run away from home.

The Dallas County Juvenile Justice Charter School provides educational services for youth housed in County facilities or court-ordered to County programs. The school system has an average daily attendance of approximately 500 students. In addition, the department oversees the operation of the Dallas County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for youth who have been expelled from their public schools.

The Juvenile Department offers a variety of volunteer opportunities including a Surrogate Parent Program. On average over 900 volunteers donate over 6,500 hours per month to the benefit of the juveniles served by the Juvenile Department.

PLACEMENT ALTERNATIVES

The Juvenile Department researched several programs that offer intensive, in-home services to youth and their families in lieu of residential placement. The programs combine the services of mental health professionals and juvenile probation officers to address the core problems of the family while ensuring that the youth faces the consequences of their actions.

The department contracts with three providers that have nationally successful programs. These programs cost an average of \$65 per day compared to residential placements that cost an average of \$95 per day. It is estimated that this initiative saves Dallas county approximately \$340,000 per year in placement costs.

DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING (\$1,000)

FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
\$42,202	\$42,512	\$42,945	47,187	44,030

COMMUNITY

The Community Services departments perform a wide array of functions for individuals in the County. The County is responsible for all elections of a County-wide nature and provides election-related services on a reimbursement basis for political parties, municipalities, and special districts. The Public Works Department and Road and Bridge Districts share responsibilities for road repair and thoroughfare improvement on County roads within and outside the corporate limits of the 26 cities in the County. The County's Veterans Service Officer assists veterans and their dependents with obtaining government benefits. The Agrilife, formerly known as the Agricultural Extension Service, is a joint project among the County, State and the State University system offering programs and expert advice to County residents.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHT

Public Works Property Division continues to cooperate in TxDOT/ County ROW Funding Participation Projects from the 1991 Bond Program. Also to be obtained are rights-of-way with monitoring of utility adjustments for State Highway Intersection projects under CMAQ which are anticipated for construction in FY2015. In addition the Property Division is the acquisition lead agency for MCIP projects which have been released for ROW activities; it continues to support the Parks/Open Space Department and Facilities Department for their Real Estate needs and is responsible for Tax Foreclosure Resale.

The 6th Call-for-Projects is underway with projects to be reviewed, evaluated and final selections to be made in FY2015.

A number of MCIP Design Projects are scheduled for FY2015 by both consultants and the Public Works design team including Spring Valley at Coit, LBJ Skillman Gateway, Northwest Highway between Centerville and LaPrada, Miller Road and Pleasant Valley in Garland, F.P. Lucas west of McKenzie to Cartwright, and Ledbetter / Grady

COMMUNITY SERVICES	STAFFING (not including grants)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Texas Agrilife	9	7	7	7	7
Elections	42	40	40	42	43
Public Works	67	70	67	67	67
Road & Bridge Dists.	104	99	97	97	98
Park/Open Space	2	1	4	4	4
Veterans Services	3	3	3	3	4
Total	227	220	218	220	223

SERVICES

Niblo in Dallas.

The Household Hazardous Waste Network, which consists of 15 cities and the County operate a fixed site waste collection point for highly toxic pollutants contained in common household and automotive products continues to be successful. Citizen participation continues to grow and the cost per participation continues to decrease due to cost saving process initiatives.

Dallas County continues to modernize the Election process by using a touch screen voting system for early voting and a Scantron system for Election Day. During FY2005 Dallas County received a Federal Grant called the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for \$13.5 million. This grant was used to offset the cost of modifying the County's Election equipment. Dallas County plans on locating a warehouse during FY2015 to store the election equipment currently being stored at the Decker Jail that is going to be sold in FY2015.

In FY2015, the Trail and Preserve Program will continue various acquisition and construction activities. The program will continue efforts to make sure preserves have appropriate amenities to encourage usage of preserves. Dallas County will complete the 3 mile LoneStar connector providing an overall 11 mile trail from the City of Grade Prairie to the City of Irving. Dallas County will also start construction of the 4 mile long Honey Springs/Cedar Crest trail in the City of Dallas.

Texas Agrilife and Veterans Services continue to provide valuable services to Dallas County citizens such as Master Gardening classes focusing on drought resistant plants and a Family and Consumer Sciences program focusing on practical information for families: raising children, housing and environment, eating well, managing money and staying healthy.

DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING (\$1,000)				
FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
321	257	257	296	309
5,849	4,266	4,629	6,084	5,338
5,341	4,710	5,699	5,819	5,738
19,152	7,691	7,816	18,232	22,243
169	198	192	311	324
181	221	181	212	290
31,013	17,343	18,774	30,553	34,241

MANAGEMENT

The Management Services departments operate the machinery of county government. Among the largest of these departments is the Tax Office, which collects taxes for the County, Parkland Hospital, the Community College District, the City of Dallas, the Dallas Independent School District, and many smaller jurisdictions. The Tax Office also operates the motor vehicle registration and title transfer process on behalf of the State. Other Management Services departments include the Office of the Court Administrator (which encompasses Communications and Central Services, Facilities Management, and Engineering and Project Management), the County Auditor, the Human Resources/Civil Service Department, the Purchasing Department, the Office of Budget and Evaluation, and the Information Technology Services Department, which was brought back in house in 2007.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Dallas County's commitment to e-government continues to grow with individuals able to pay their property tax, renew their vehicle registration and pay traffic tickets online. Individuals wanting to review Commissioners Court agenda items or apply for a position at Dallas County may also do this online. During FY2007 Dallas County implemented e-purchasing which allows many purchasing related activities to be conducted online. In FY2014, Dallas County implemented over the counter credit card terminals at all locations that citizens pay for services.

In FY2007 Dallas County completed the process of moving from an outsourcing vendor provided Information Technology (IT) to an in-house provided Information Technology with specific functions being outsourced. In addition, the entire Information Technology function was funded from the Major Technology Fund starting in FY2007. The changes occurring in Information Technology will enhance the accountability and project management.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES	STAFFING (not including grants)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Comm. Court Adm.	11	11	11	12	12
County Auditor	95	95	92	95	95
County Judge	4	4	4	5	5
County Treasurer	16	14	14	15	15
Data Services	74	76	78	80	92
Human Res/Civil Svc.	21	21	24	24	25
Office of Budget/Eval.	6	5	5	5	5
Operational Services	195	190	184	182	177
Purchasing	11	11	12	12	12
Tax Assessor/Collector	221	223	222	222	222
Total	654	650	646	652	660

SERVICES

In FY2014, Dallas County moved its Data Processing Environment to a large Data Center providing a more reliable environment. In addition, Dallas County moved its legacy Mainframe programs to a shared Mainframe in Florida to save funds and allow the County's Mainframe to be decommissioned.

The child support Local Rule is a collaborative program between Dallas County and the Attorney General's Office to allow Dallas County to enforce Child Support collections by filing garnishment against income of individuals who are not paying their court order child support.

In FY2013, Commissioners Court authorized the addition of an Assistant Commissioner's Court Administrator to manage construction projects. During FY2015 Dallas County will be reviewing its space and space needs to determine the appropriate way to address current and future needs.

Long time County Auditor Virginia Porter will retire in FY2015 with the District Judges appointing Darryl Thomas as her replacement. In addition, County Treasurer Joe Wells determined not to run for reelection and will be replaced by Pauline Medrano.

For the 34th straight year the County's FY2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was awarded the highest award from the Government Finance Officers' Association.

**PERFORMANCE FORUM/
PROGRESSIVE PRESSURE**

Dallas County has a three volume set of quarterly performance measure reports, which are produced, graded, analyzed, discussed, and used to make resource allocation decisions. The three volumes are available on the County's web site at <http://www.dallascounty.org>.

DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING (\$1,000)				
FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
1,045	1,020	1,362	1,549	1,552
5,418	5,171	5,841	6,408	6,936
375	380	410	489	508
1,143	980	1,067	1,076	1,135
15,853	15,799	15,414	20,586	23,898
4,528	4,623	2,488	5,460	5,650
520	461	494	524	562
31,291	32,201	32,075	20,164	20,599
726	576	830	918	972
10,989	10,818	11,598	11,875	12,283
71,888	72,029	71,579	69,049	72,557

CAPITAL AND

The Capital Improvement Plan consists of those items whose long useful lives distinguish them from recurring operational needs. Capital projects have historically been funded in one of three ways: (a) with cash, (b) through the proceeds of voter-approved bonds, or (c) through the issuance of an annual Certificate of Obligation. Beginning in FY98, a set-aside of portion of the County's property tax was earmarked for major technology improvements. Beginning in FY2000, the Major Capital Development Fund was established to provide a funding mechanism to replace debt financing for major projects.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The County maintains a five-year Capital Improvement Plan which is updated each year and approved along with the annual budget. The first year of the five year plan becomes the approved capital budget and is shown on the opposite page. Technology planning originates with the County's data services vendor, preparing long-term objectives related to computers.

Major Capital Development Fund

FY2015 appropriations for the Major Capital Development Fund includes funding for the Public Works Department, funding for the Park and Open Space program, and funding for the Thoroughfare Program.

Major Technology Fund

FY2015 Major Technology Fund appropriations reflect a change in the Major Technology Fund policy in FY2007 that consolidated all expenses related to technology into the Major Technology Fund including operations which was expensed in the General Fund. This was accomplished by reducing the tax rate for general operating purposes and equally increasing the tax rate for the Major Technology Fund. Also included in the FY2015 budget is the transfer of funds to other funds that have been used to supplement technology projects that exceeded available funds.

Permanent Improvement Fund

The FY2015 appropriations include funding for repairs to major buildings countywide including asbestos remediation.

Summary

The FY2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) allows Dallas County to undertake construction of the needed new facilities, upgrades of existing facilities, and migrate to new technology. Every capital improvement project in the approved CIP is funded through a dedicated carve-out of the tax rate.

TECHNOLOGY

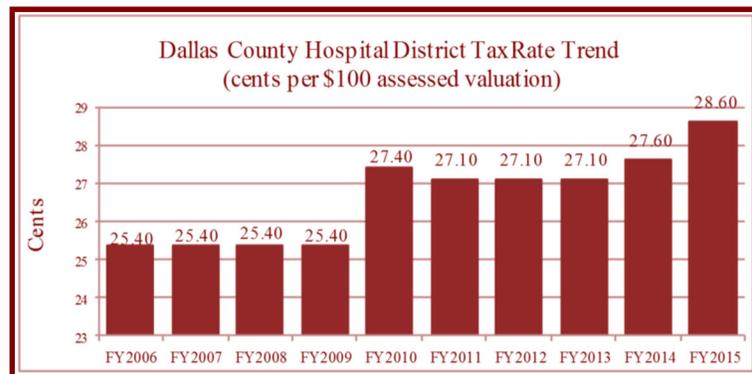
Dallas County FY2015	
<u>Funded Capital and Technology Programs</u>	
Permanent Improvement (Fund 126)	
Operations	757,359
Building Improvements	4,102,472
Subtotal	4,859,831
Major Technology (Fund 195)	
IT Services Operations	22,199,895
Hardware Refresh (92055)	800,000
Transfer to Other Funds	1,672,076
Subtotal	24,671,971
Major Capital Development (Fund 196)	
Public Works	6,076,867
Park and Open Space	2,500,000
Thoroughfare Program	21,458,633
Subtotal	30,035,500
Grand Total	59,567,302

PARKLAND

The Dallas County Hospital District operates the 714-bed Parkland Hospital, nine community-based comprehensive health centers called Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Clinics, and other specialty health facilities. The mission of the Hospital District is to provide medical, hospital, and other health-related services to the needy and indigent residents of Dallas County. Parkland Hospital also serves as the primary teaching and research hospital for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Although the Hospital District operates semi-autonomously, its board is appointed by Commissioners Court, and its tax rate and budget are subject to final approval by Commissioners Court.

FY2015 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The FY2015 Dallas County Hospital District Tax rate is 28.60 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. This represents a 1 cent increase from the FY2014 tax rate of 27.60 and represents the last increase authorized by the citizens when they voted to approve the construction of the new hospital. Expenditures for the Parkland Hospital System are budgeted to increase from current FY2014 projected levels of \$1.19 billion to



\$1.4 billion in FY2015.

At 55 years old, Parkland Memorial Hospital is outdated and 50 percent too small for the current volume of patients — over a million visits per year. Much of the utilities infrastructure is in need of replacement. The facility does not meet current code and is inefficient to operate, overcrowded, and functionally deficient. Physical limitations in the hospital often make it necessary to park patients' beds in the hallways while they wait for treatment. Some treatments are now limited to certain days of the week to manage the number of people in the facility.

HOSPITAL

With the County population expected to double by 2025, Parkland needs replacing in order to meet Dallas County's future healthcare needs. Parkland's mission, conditions, and future, have been thoroughly studied and evaluated over the past six years by the Dallas County Hospital District Board of Managers, Dallas County Commissioners Court, hospital leadership, and blue ribbon panel members from various businesses and organizations. From all of the alternatives that were studied, the alternative for total replacement of the current inpatient and outpatient campus was selected.

The total capital budget for the replacement campus is set at \$1.27 billion and includes:

- \$747 million from a bond program that voters passed on November 4, 2008,
- \$350 million of cash on hand from prior-year operations,

\$150 million to be derived from a philanthropic campaign. The campaign was launched on September 10, 2008, and **\$80 million has already been raised** in pledges and donations from generous private sector benefactors throughout the region.

Parkland's hospital replacement program features the construction of:

- an 862 adult-bed full service acute care hospital (1.7 million SF),
- outpatient center (380,000 SF),
- office center (275,000 SF),
- parking for 6,000 vehicles, plant,
- and other support facilities to achieve a new healthcare campus on a Parkland-owned property north of Medical District Drive and east of Harry Hines Boulevard

The new Parkland campus is set to open in August 2015.

Frederick Cerise was named the new Parkland Chief Executive Officer during FY2014.

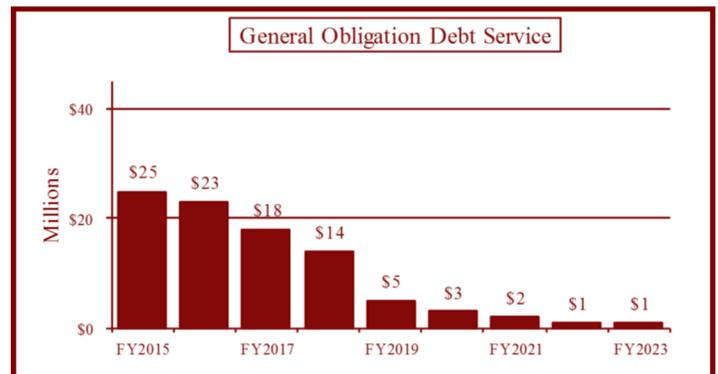
FINANCIAL

Dallas County conducts its financial affairs pursuant to a policy statement that is approved by the Commissioners Court and reviewed periodically. The policies contained in this statement are carefully followed and are a key factor in the County's superior bond ratings. The full text of the policy statement is available from the Dallas County Office of Budget and Evaluation and is included as an appendix to the full budget document. Some of the key features are discussed below.

The maintenance of a reserve balance in excess of 10.5% of budgeted expenditures is the cornerstone of the County's financial policies and a key to retaining the AAA/Aaa ratings from the major bond rating companies. Other important policies are a limitation on debt service to 25% of resources and a limitation on the amount of reserves that can be utilized to balance the budget in each year. The FY2015 budget meets these policy objectives of the Commissioners Court. Specifically, the General Fund ending balance budget is \$48.8 million, of which \$2.3 million is budgeted as an unallocated reserve while \$46.5 million as an emergency reserve.

The County has established a long-term goal of converting from a capital structure which depends on tax-exempt debt to one that relies on cash. The first step in this process was the creation of a new fund (the Major Capital Development Fund) and the "freezing" of a portion of the tax rate at 4.5 cents. As debt service from previously-approved bonds decreases, the increasing amount available from this tax rate will provide money for major road projects, major building projects, and park and open space projects. Smaller capital needs will continue to be financed through the General Fund or other more specialized funds.

The County maintains an aggressive investment policy of all funds. The County Treasurer is the designated investment officer of the Court and is the presiding officer of the Financial Review Committee who advises the Commissioners Court on all matters of financial policy.

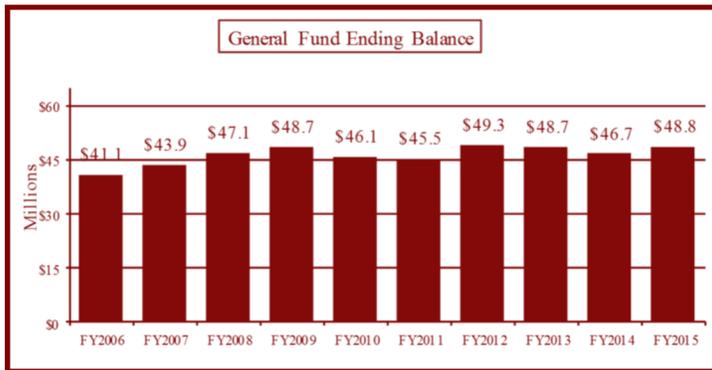


POLICIES

OUTSTANDING GROSS DEBT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2014	
Limited Tax Bonds	\$ 67,370,000
Unlimited Tax Bonds	28,370,000
Total Debt	\$95,740,000

The County continues to maintain a superior bond rating, AAA from Standard and Poor's and Aaa from Moody's Investors Service.

All ledgers of the County are maintained by the County Auditor, who is appointed by the 39 State District Judges of Dallas County. This separation of authority is an important aspect of the integrity of the County's financial processes. In addition, all accounts are subject to an independent audit by a major national accounting firm each year. The independent auditor issues an opinion as to the fairness of the financial presentation and offers suggestions related to internal controls.



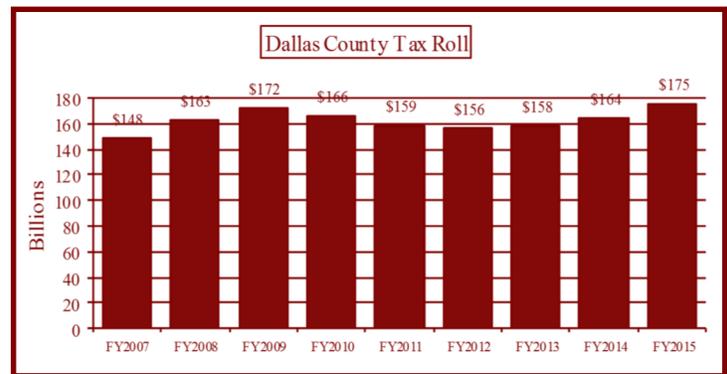
The County encourages innovation through a gainsharing program. This program allows departments to keep half of any savings which result from an approved "management initiative." The savings are credited to the department's Departmental Discretionary Account (DDA) which may be spent on items such as training, computer hardware or software, amenities, or staff-related expenditures such as suggestion awards or performance awards.

The County relies heavily on performance data which is collected by the Office of Budget and Evaluation and distributed semi-annually to all departments and the general public. For each outcome and efficiency measure, a target is established and actual data is routinely compared to the target as an aid to management and resource allocation.

REVENUE

Dallas County receives money from a variety of sources to accomplish its assigned tasks. The County Auditor is responsible for projecting annual revenues. The Commissioners Court must approve a balanced budget within the constraints of the Auditor's projections.

The tax roll certified by the Dallas Central Appraisal District was \$175.41 billion, a 6.54% increase from the prior year tax roll. The following graph shows the tax roll over the last eleven years.



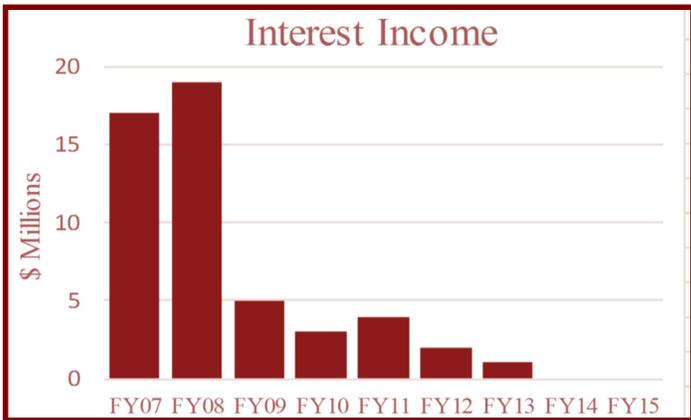
The following table displays the trends in Dallas County General Fund revenues. The largest single source of revenue is property tax, comprising slightly more than half of all revenues. Next in overall importance is the fines, fees, and forfeitures associated with the judicial system. These include filing fees for legal actions, court costs imposed on litigants, fees related to summons delivery, and fines imposed on individuals convicted of misdemeanors and felonies.

REVENUE CATEGORY	GENERAL FUND REVENUE (\$1,000)				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Ad Valorem Taxes	281,121	278,973	279,777	277,966	297,738
Fines & Forfeitures	20,312	20,804	23,250	25,662	27,188
Fees of Office	67,804	64,163	62,131	65,010	65,460
Contrib. & Transfers	28,218	32,196	29,884	23,027	22,415
Interest and Rental	6,240	5,648	3,603	6,219	5,567
Reimbursements	31,612	28,750	27,819	33,236	28,531
Miscellaneous	11,717	6,532	5,046	4,343	2,872
Total	447,024	437,066	431,511	435,463	449,771

TRENDS

The County will receive \$7.9 million for operation of the City of Dallas’ book-in and jail facility. This city-county arrangement has been in place for over 27 years and offers important economies of scale to both jurisdictions.

Dallas County’s interest income from investments continues to lower levels this year due to the Federal Reserves maintaining historically low interest rates. For FY2015, Dallas County is projecting interest income of \$812,402.



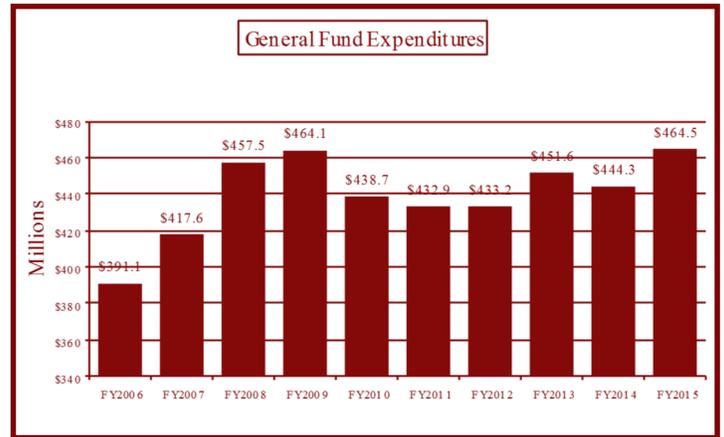
The County also makes maximum use of federal and state grant and contract funding to operate programs. The following table provides information on the source of this funding, including required matching funds included in the budget. The unabridged version of the budget document contains a detailed listing of all grants.

Funding Source	Total Grant Amounts	County Match	Total Funding
Federal	92,481,012	1,787,499	94,268,512
State	20,551,336	2,869,406	23,420,743
Local	1,141,741	47,039	1,188,780
TOTALS	114,174,089	4,703,945	118,878,034

EXPENDITURE

Staff cost constitutes the largest outlay of expenditures for most employers, especially in service-oriented organizations like county government. The costs include salaries, merit increases, employee benefits and other related expenses. Other major categories of expenditure include payments to other agencies, operational expenses such as utility payments, and capital outlay.

The FY2015 budget for the General Fund contains expenditures of \$464.5 million, or a \$8.5 million (1.8%) increase over projected FY2014 expenditures of \$456 million. The chart below details the General Fund expenditures for the last eleven years.

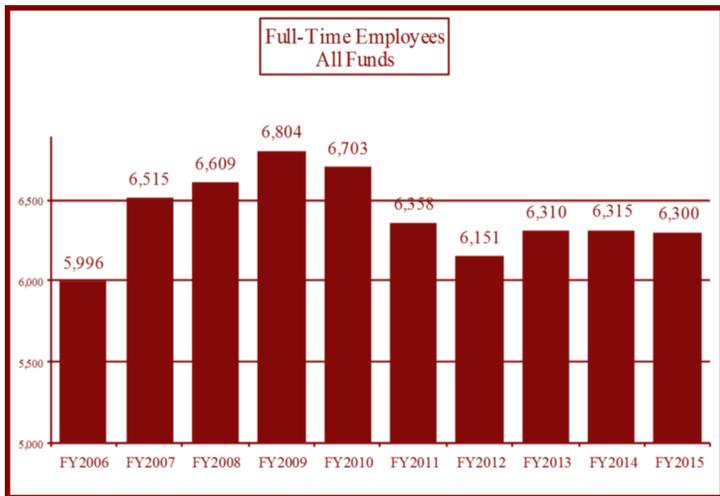
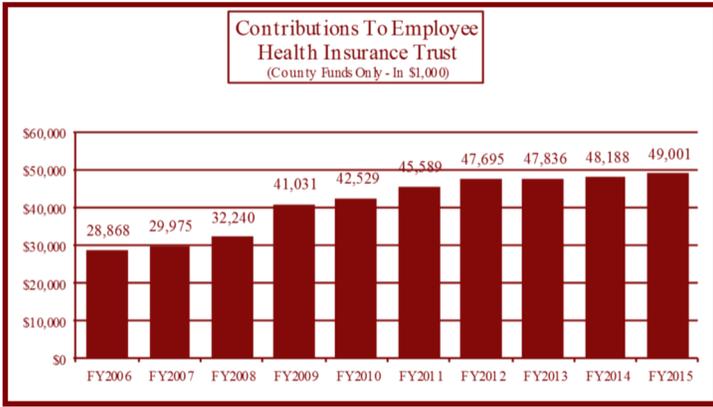


In recent years, expenditures in the County’s self-insured trust fund have increased (see chart on the following page). This has resulted in Dallas County increasing the County’s contribution for employee health insurance to \$8,500 per employee for FY2015. Dallas County will be offering a Choice Plus health plan with a Health Savings Account and an enhanced PPO for FY2015.

For FY2015 Dallas County continues to be the only Texas County on a fixed rate defined contribution retirement plan. All other Texas County’s have moved to the more generous and expensive variable rate plans.

The FY2015 budget included the addition of 59 positions and the deletion of 23 positions for a net county-wide increase of 36 positions. The majority of the position additions were related to the following: a) 24 positions related to the opening of the new portion of Letot; b) 10 positions for Facilities as we upgrade the maintenance level of our infra-

TRENDS



SERVICE CATEGORIES	FULL TIME POSITIONS				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015 Budget
Justice Admin	1,371	1,276	1,404	1,391	1,364
Law Enforcement	2,557	2,454	2,450	2,465	2,459
Health & Social Svcs.	147.5	146.5	147.5	149.5	155.5
Juvenile Services	669	674	700	701	701
Community Services	226	220	218	220	223
Management Services	654	650	646	652	660
Grant Positions	733.5	730.5	744.5	739.5	744.5
Total	6,358	6,151	6,310	6,318	6,307

COUNTY

Dallas County government provides services to all of the two million plus residents of the County, either through the transportation system, licenses and auto registration, or to individuals who find themselves in need of assistance or involved in the judicial system. The County operates certain programs directly through its various departments and in addition maintains cooperative arrangements with other governmental and non-profit organizations for delivery of services. Pages 8 through 23 of this document discuss the major services of the County categorized into functional groups. This page lists certain programs which may be less well known than the County's more visible activities.

Family Violence Program - The District Attorney manages a program of early intervention into cases of domestic violence. (214) 653-3528

Ryan White AIDS Program - The Health and Human Services (HHS) Department manages a federal program that distributes emergency relief funds to organizations that serve individuals afflicted with HIV/AIDS. (214) 819-1857

STD Clinics - HHS treats individuals with sexually transmitted diseases and attempts to provide behavior-modification to at-risk individuals. (214) 819-1819

Letot Center - Dallas County's Juvenile Department operates a facility which temporarily houses runaway children until they can be returned home or receive other services. (214) 357-0391

Hazardous Materials - Dallas County leads a "Haz-Mat" team which responds to reported incidents which could involve toxic materials. (214) 653-7980

DIVERT Court - This judicially supervised program allows non-violent, drug-addicted offenders diversion from regular case processing to intensive drug treatment and rehabilitation. (214) 653-5340

Household Hazardous Waste - The County coordinates the efforts of a multi-city consortium to provide collection and safe disposal of household paints, insecticides and other toxic waste. (214) 553-1765

Energy Assistance - HHS manages a program to provide low income households that qualify with utility assistance. (214) 819-1848 Learn about winterizations to help make your home more energy efficient. (214) 819-1909

Veterans Services - The County Veterans Services Officer and his staff assist all veterans and family members thereof with the accession of a

SERVICES

comprehensive range of Department of Veterans Affairs entitlements (M-F, 8:00 - 4:30) (972) 692-4939

Auto Theft Task Force - The Sheriff operates a program to identify organized theft rings and systematically prosecute the individuals and return the cars to their owners. (214) 653-3430

RAIFTENT - The Regional Insurance Fraud Task Force of North Texas is an ATPA funded grant under the authority of the Sheriff's Department whose mission is to reduce insurance fraud through public awareness presentations, law enforcement training, inter-agency networking and single claim insurance fraud investigations leading to the prosecution of offenders and restitution to victim insurance companies. (214) 653-3430

Step Grant - The Sheriff's Patrol Division operates after-hours patrol which targets drunk drivers and enforces speed and seat belt enforcement. (972) 225-6118

Victim Witness Assistance - The District Attorney has a unit which assists victims of violent crime and assists them with referrals and in obtaining compensation. (214) 653-3600 or (214) 761-1358

Immunizations - HHS manages the local effort to immunize children and adults against life-threatening diseases at various locations. (214) 819-2163 (children) or (214) 819-2162 (adult); for Foreign Travel (214) 819-2162

Older Adult Services Program - HHS operates a federal program to provide hot meals and referral services for elderly citizens at 21 locations. (214) 819-1860

Public Health - HHS/Environmental Health Division operates programs to protect the public by inspecting restaurants, daycare centers, eradicating mosquito breeding grounds, picking up stray animals, and rigorously enforcing anti-littering laws in unincorporated portions of the County and within the limits of certain cities on a contractual basis. (214) 819-2115 or 2112

Jail Medical and Mental Health - Sheriff's Office (214) 653-2603.

Rape Crisis Services - The Victim Intervention Program (VIP) Services at Parkland Hospital offers a follow-up Sexual Assault Survivors clinic and counseling services for citizens of Dallas County who have experienced a sexual assault or domestic violence. (214) 590-2926 or the 24-hour crisis hotline (214) 590-0430.

VOLUNTEER

Dallas County government utilizes the skills of many dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and expertise in a variety of areas. A summary of these volunteer opportunities and the 'host' department or agency is listed below:

Texas Agrilife: If you have a 'green' thumb, or would like to work with youth in the 4-H program, or are interested in family and health issues you may want to call the Texas Agrilife Office at (214) 904-3050.

Alternate Dispute Resolution: Volunteer mediators are responsible for the resolution of cases before and after filing within our judicial system. Contact Othel Bursey Jr. (214) 653-7898 or fax at (214) 653-7202.

Child Protective Services: Volunteers may help collect and distribute clothing for foster families; lend a helping hand to collect, wrap, and distribute Christmas presents for children in foster care; baby-sit while parents attend group meetings; or work along with case workers with high risk families in need of parenting skills. Call (214) 583-4013 to sign up for the program that interests you.

Constables: Dozens of reserve deputy constables assist the County in its effort to locate hot check writers, serve citations and warrants and conduct research on other court papers waiting to be executed. Certified law enforcement officers may contact any of the five constables' offices for information on becoming a reserve deputy constable. See page 36 for a contact number for your precinct.

District Attorney's Office: Victims of crime, child abuse or physical abuse can see a friendly face who will provide both comfort and guidance as they come in contact with the criminal justice system. The Family Violence Division may be contacted at (214) 653-3600.

Fire Marshal/Volunteer Fire Department: Assist with fire suppression in the unincorporated areas of the County; fire investigations and fire prevention activities and assist in disaster recovery. Call the Fire Marshal's Office at (972) 653-7970 for more information.

Justice of the Peace Courts: Some of the eleven elected Justices of the Peace have established teen courts, which assist truants in working through their problems by counseling young people and their families and by providing an opportunity to develop leadership skills. See page 36 for a contact number for your precinct.

OPPORTUNITIES

Juvenile Department: Volunteers in the juvenile justice system support staff as visitors, mentors, tutors, spiritual advisors, recreational guides, community service supervisors, artists, and life skills teachers. The department also operates an extensive foster grandparent program to provide mentors to youth in the juvenile detention facility. Please check the Juvenile Department website for programming and volunteer coordinators.

Dallas Metrocare Services: The Volunteer Coordinator strives to match volunteers with their area of interest. They also act as a chaperone for field trips, plan holiday parties for group homes, or assist with clerical and reception duties. (214) 743-1202

Parkland Health and Hospital System: Volunteer opportunities at Parkland include feeding and holding infants, volunteering in the Emergency Room or volunteering throughout the hospital. Hand crafted items are greatly needed to assist our indigent patients. Items such as baby booties, receiving blankets, baby gowns, knitted slippers for adults, etc. are desperately needed. Join the team at Parkland by calling (214) 590-8827 today.

Probate Courts: Volunteers in the Court Visitor Program are needed to visit wards of the court (primarily incapacitated adults) in order to obtain current information and to verify that each ward is cared for by their appointed guardians. Call the Probate Court Visitor Coordinator at (214) 653-7316 to learn more about the Court Visitor Program.

Sheriff's Office: Reserve Deputy Sheriffs assist certified peace officers in the conduct of their duties, e.g., patrolling unincorporated areas of the County, researching and serving warrants, and extraditing prisoners from other jails or prisons.

Volunteers from the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous assist in conducting monthly meetings in the County jails.

Call the Substance Abuse Section (214) 653-5980, the Inmate Programs (214) 653-2838 or the Reserve Division (214) 674-3989 for more information on volunteering.

Commissioners Court: Commissioners Court appoints individuals to serve on various boards and commissions including Child Welfare Board, Election Advisory Committee and Metrocare Services. If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission contact your Commissioner's office.

BUDGET

The FY2015 budget was adopted on September 16, 2014 following a twelve month discussion and analysis process. The following paragraphs discuss the annual budget cycle. The preparation of the annual budget is the responsibility of the Budget Officer, who is selected by the Commissioners Court.

Dallas County's fiscal year begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The budget process for each upcoming fiscal year begins in January with the preparation of a Budget Manual. This manual is distributed to departments in February. The departments use the Budget Manual as an operations guide for budget submissions. Included are detailed instructions, necessary forms, and completed examples to assist the departments in submitting their budgetary information. Also included in this manual is the calendar of events with critical dates highlighted.

Departmental responses and requests for new and expanded programs are due to the Office of Budget and Evaluation in early March. These requests are evaluated and used to develop a Baseline Budget which, by policy, contains no increase in the tax rate other than the increase required to offset a decrease in the tax base. The Baseline Budget is not a recommended budget, but is a starting point for the Commissioners Court. The Baseline Budget is presented to the Commissioners Court in July and forms the basis of discussion at budget work sessions.

The Baseline Budget contains revenue estimates developed by the County Auditor and transmitted to the Office of Budget and Evaluation in June. Depending upon revenue estimates, the Office of Budget and Evaluation may be required to present a reduced level of expenditures in certain areas in order to provide a balanced budget without an increase in taxes.

Departmental requests for new and expanded programs are reviewed by appropriate staff departments who formulate recommendations to Commissioners Court. For example, the Purchasing Department reviews and make recommendations on new program requests related to copiers. The Office of Budget and Evaluation makes recommendations on requests for additional personnel. Other items subject to staff review are vehicles, office equipment, radios and salary grade changes.

In July, the Dallas Central Appraisal District certifies the tax roll and the Dallas County Tax Office calculates the "effective tax rate." This is the tax rate which provides the County with the same revenue that was received in the previous year when applied to existing (rather than newly-constructed) property.

PROCESS

During late July, departmental budget work sessions are held which allow discussions among Elected Officials/Department Heads, and the Commissioners Court on funding levels and other policy issues. Because the Baseline Budget is balanced without a tax increase, the Commissioners Court's approval of any new program must be accompanied by a revenue increase, an offsetting expenditure decrease, or a drawdown of available reserves.

The public is invited to attend all budget work sessions and to participate in the discussion as time permits. At the conclusion of the discussions, the Commissioners Court proposes a tax rate and advertises it to the public. State law requires two formal public hearings on the proposed tax rate.

The Budget Officer formally proposes a balanced budget at the conclusion of the budget process and makes it available for public comment. The budget and tax rate are then formally adopted by Commissioners Court.

TENTATIVE FY2016 BUDGET CALENDAR

February 2015	Budget Manual Distributed
March 13th	Budget Materials Due to Budget Office
July 17th	Baseline Budget Published
July 24th	Certified Tax Roll Received
July 27th—29th	Budget Work Sessions
August	Final Decisions on Programs
Aug. 25th & Sep. 1st	Public Hearings on Tax Rate
September 15th	Tax Rate Set; Budget Adopted
October 1st	2016 Fiscal Year Begins

COUNTY

APPOINTED OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENT HEADS

Assist. Court Admin/Operations	Jonathan Bazan	(214) 653-6490
Assist. Court Administrator	Gordon Hikel	(214) 653-7650
Auditor	Darryl Thomas	(214) 653-6472
Budget Officer	Ryan Brown	(214) 653-6384
County Administrator	Darryl Martin	(214) 653-7327
Comm. Supervision and Corrections Dir.	Javed Syed	(214) 653-5202
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer	Terry Smith, PhD	(214) 698-2223
Chief Medical Examiner	Dr. Jeffrey J. Barnard	(214) 920-5913
Chief Public Defender	Lynn Richardson	(214) 653-3554
Information Technology	Stanley "Vic" Victrum	(214) 653-7339
Elections Administrator	Toni Pippins-Poole	(214) 653-6335
Office of Emergency Mgt.	Doug Bass	(214) 653-7970
Health and Human Services Director	Zachary Thompson	(214) 819-1858
Human Resource /Civil Service	Urmit Graham—Acting	(214) 653-6044
Parkland Hospital CEO	Frederick Cerise	(214) 590-8076
Public Works Director	Alberta Blair	(214) 653-7151
Purchasing Agent	Gloria McCulloch –Acting	(214) 653-7597
Veterans Service Officer	Tracy Little	(214) 819-1886

CONSTABLES

Constable, Precinct #1	Cleophas Steele	(972) 228-0006
Constable, Precinct #2	Ray Nichols	(214) 643-4766
Constable, Precinct #3	Ben Adamcik	(972) 690-8692
Constable, Precinct #4	Roy Williams Jr.	(214) 875-2121
Constable, Precinct #5	Beth Villarreal	(214) 943-1765

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1-1	Thomas Jones	(972) 228-0280
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1-2	Valencia Nash	(972) 228-2272
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2-1	Gerry Cooper	(214) 643-4707
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2-2	Bill Metzger	(972) 285-5429
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3-1	Al Cercone	(214) 321-4106
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3-2	Steven Seider	(214) 904-3042
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4-1	Norris "Stretch" Rideaux	(214) 875-2100
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4-2	Kathy Hubener	(214) 589-7000
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5-1	Sara Martinez	(214) 943-6980
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5-2	Juan Jasso	(214) 943-5981

LEADERSHIP

COMMISSIONERS COURT



Commissioner Daniel



Judge Jenkins



Commissioner Cantrell



Commissioner Price



Commissioner Garcia

County Judge	Clay Lewis Jenkins	(214) 653-7949
Commissioner, Precinct #1	Dr. Theresa Daniel	(214) 653-6668
Commissioner, Precinct #2	Mike Cantrell	(972) 240-1740
Commissioner, Precinct #3	John Wiley Price	(214) 653-6671
Commissioner, Precinct #4	Dr. Elba Garcia	(214) 653-6670

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Clerk	John Warren	(214) 653-7096
County Sheriff	Lupe Valdez	(214) 653-3450
County Treasurer	Pauline Medrano	(214) 653-7321
District Attorney	Susan Hawk	(214) 653-3620
District Clerk	Felicia Pitre	(214) 653-7149
Tax Assessor Collector	John Ames	(214) 653-7630

PRESIDING JUDGES as of January 2015

Probate Courts	Brenda Hull Thompson	(214) 653-7236
County Criminal Courts	Tina Yoo	(214) 653-5670
County Courts at Law	D'Metria Benson	(214) 653-6581
Local Administrative District Judge	Ken Molberg	(214) 653-6361
Criminal District Courts	Gracie Lewis	(214) 653-5922
Civil District Courts	Craig Smith	(214) 653-7709
Juvenile District Courts	Cheryl Lee Shannon	(214) 698-4924
Family District Courts	James Martin	(214) 653-6741
First Administrative Judicial Region	Mary Murphy	(214) 653-2943