



HARDEE COUNTY
ANNUAL REPORT
2000—2001

“A Year to Remember”



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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners for Hardee County governs by a constitutional type government. They adopt administrative laws and policies that determine the business and development of our County. They also adopt the annual budgets that fall under the purview of the County Commission, county departments and Constitutional Officers. They oversee the use of taxpayers' money to ensure that it is used in a cost-effective manner.

Hardee County has five Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Clerk of the Court and Supervisor of Elections), a five member Board of County Commissioners and is a part of the TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT. There are three municipalities located within the County boundaries: City of Bowling Green, City of Wauchula, and the Town of Zolfo Springs. The County Courthouse is located within the boundaries of the City of Wauchula.

The five County Commissioners are elected to four-year terms of office. A Commissioner must reside in a particular district, but all voters in the county vote for all of the Commissioners. The Commissioners meet on Thursdays at 8:30 a. m. according to a schedule approved at the beginning of each calendar year. The meetings are generally every two weeks but interested parties should call the Commission office to confirm a date. In addition to the regular meetings the Board holds a planning session once a month. Special call meetings are held if warranted and Budget workshops are held in July of each year with the two final Public Hearings held in September.

The Board of County Commissioners acts in quasi-judicial capacity hearing evidence from both sides of some cases. According to Florida Case Law, the County Commissioners are restricted from receiving or engaging in ex parte communications (i.e., communications outside of public meetings or public hearings) in matters requiring quasi-judicial decisions, such as: special exception requests, site plan requests and appeals, variance requests and appeals, subdivision requests and appeals, appeals of planning staff interpretations and decisions, rezoning requests and appeal, and developments of regional impact (DRI's).

The County Commission establishes various advisory committees and appoints members who volunteer to serve on those committees. Names of the Committees are: PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, COURT FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE, HARDEE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY, CITIZENS ADVISORY TASK FORCE, HANDICAPPED ADVISORY COMMITTEE, LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LICENSING, RESTHAVEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HARDEE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE.

The Commissioners serve on community and state established committees where they respond to constituents' concerns and problems whenever possible, report back to the full Board and try to find solutions to convey back to the appropriate agency.

In November of each year, the office of chairman and vice chairman is filled by nomination and vote of the Commissioners. The County Manager and County Attorney report directly to the Board of County Commissioners and all other departments report to the County Manager.

Administrative Expenses

Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	409,707.06	157,208.61	159,299.04	158,558.48	160,807.45	172,862
Operating	84,168.94	83,251.83	55,947.67	67,668.09	62,626.70	39,200
Capital Outlay	13,490.81	24,302.95	29,197.03	38,525.62	62,944.19	52,200
TOTAL	507,366.81	264,763.39	244,443.74	264,752.19	286,378.34	264,262



COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

In Hardee County's last annual report, we expressed to the people that our county government was "*Moving In A New Direction*" and without a doubt that path is continuing to be followed and new avenues are being sought to ensure that we provide our citizens with a community that they can take pride in. The year 2001 was an eventful year and can definitely be considered "*A Year to Remember*" not only for our county, but for our nation as well. The events of September 11th were emotionally trying for our nation and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families affected by this tragedy. In addition to the deep sense of loss experienced by our nation, we are also faced with economic uncertainties.

PLANNED PROJECTS FOR 2002/2003

- **Wauchula Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility**
- **Vandolah Wastewater Treatment**
- **Courthouse Renovations**
- **Computer Network Expansion**
- **Storage Building—Sheriff's Department**
- **Civic Center Renovations**
- **Universal Garbage Collections**
- **Animal Refuge Expansion**
- **Road Resurfacing—thirty miles**
- **Bridge Rehabilitation (Steve Special, Old Town Creek, Griffin Road, Heard Bridge, Lake Branch)**

Though the impact to Hardee County is not as significant as what it may be to some of the larger counties, program and budget cuts from the state have been experienced since the tragedy and we anticipate further effects to Hardee County in the upcoming year.

During the past year the Board has taken a proactive position in seeking to expand opportunities for Hardee County through economic development. In March of last year the Board restructured the county's organization and developed an Economic Development Department. The Department was created to assist the Board with economic development issues on a full time basis. This Department works closely with the Industrial Development Authority promoting the development of industry in our community and seeking opportunities for the existing businesses in Hardee County. We were recently successful in having a 19.8 square mile area in Hardee County designated as an enterprise zone. Some of the benefits available to businesses located in this area include job tax credits, sales tax refunds, corporate income tax refunds and property tax exemption.

Over the past year the Economic Development Department has worked closely with the Airport Task Force pursuing the development of our existing airport and exploring opportunities for developing a new regional air freight facility in Hardee County. The Board recently proposed changes to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan to designate the northwest portion of Hardee County as an airport

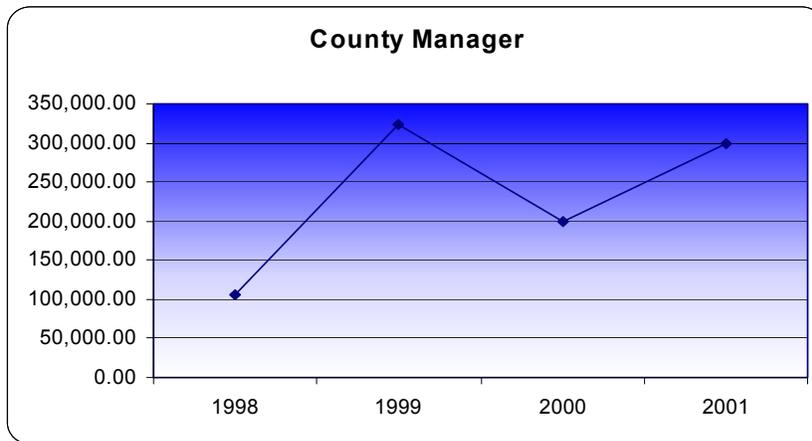
development area and will continue to pursue the development of plans for this project. A study has been performed to evaluate the feasibility of this project and a business plan is in the process of being developed.

As part of the Board’s plan to promote Hardee County and enhance economic development, plans are currently underway for the development of a wastewater treatment facility on the west side of the county. Federal and state funds have been secured to assist with this project. The plan includes the development of an economic corridor that will provide an opportunity for the future development of industry and new businesses in this area. In addition to this project, the Board is also in the process of developing a wastewater treatment facility in the Wauchula Hills area to improve the water conditions in the community and increase our opportunities for increases in economic development along Highway 17.

In addition to these infrastructure

projects, last year the Board made a commitment to improve the County’s transportation program by addressing some of the capital improvement needs of roads and bridges throughout the County. Funds in the amount of four million dollars were secured and construction is currently underway.

A synergistic approach has been taken over the past year and the cooperative efforts of the Board and community leaders will ensure positive changes for the future of Hardee County. As is indicated throughout our report, we have accomplished a great deal in the past year. The leaders of our community are committed to making Hardee County the best it can be. Through a cooperative effort with the community we will continue to move forward seeking new opportunities for Hardee County. As was demonstrated by our nation this past year, when we stand united we can accomplish anything. As we move forward we will reflect back on this year observing it as **“A Year to Remember”**.



Expenditure	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Summary	FY 97/98	FY 98/99	FY 99/00	FY 00/01	FY 01/02
Personnel	101,165.06	254,729.91	177,942.11	244,901.77	272,389
Operating	5,632.11	35,812.80	17,068.39	33,476.77	30,300
Capital Outlay	0	32,871.81	4,666.68	19,802.79	0
TOTAL	106,797.17	323,414.52	199,677.18	298,181.33	302,689



Hardee County Board of County Commissioners
412 West Orange Street, Rm A-203
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone: 863/773-9430 - Fax: 863/773-0958

Commissioners

William R. Lambert, Jr., District I Clifton N. Timmerman, District II
 Gordon R. Norris, District III Bobby Ray Smith, District IV
 Walter B. Olliff, Jr. District V

Constitutional Officers

Supervisor of Elections Dean Cullins 315 N. 6th Avenue, Suite 110 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-6061 Fax 863-773-6813	Tax Collector Zee Smith P.O. Box 445 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-9144 Fax 863-773-9679	Clerk of Courts B. Hugh Bradley P.O. Drawer 1749 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-4174 Fax 863-773-4422
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Sheriff J. Loran Cogburn 900 E. Summit Street Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-0304 Fax 863-773-4593	Property Appraiser Carolyn Coker P.O. Box 877 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 63-773-2196 Fax 863-773-0954
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Board of County Commission Service Departments

County Manager Lexton Albritton 412 West Orange Street, Room A-203 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-9430 Fax 863-773-0958	Office of Budget & Finance Kathy L. Crawford, Director 412 West Orange Street Room A-203 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-6952 Fax 863-773-0958	Planning & Development Kris DeLaney, Director 110 South 9th Street Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-767-9655 Fax 863-767-0360
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Public Safety Bill Muhlfeld, Director 404 West Orange Street Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-6373 Fax 863-773-0107	Public Works J. R. Prestridge, Director 205 Hanchey Road Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-3272 Fax 863-773-0107
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**Ambulance Services
Fire Rescue**

Michael Choate, Fire Chief
149 K. D. Revell Road
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-4662
Fax 863-773-3827

**Buildings and Grounds
Parks and Recreation**

Danny Weeks
205 Hanchey Road
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Phone 863-773-3419
Fax 863-773-0107

Building and Zoning

Mike Cassidy
401 West Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-3236
Fax 863-773-6284

Community Development

Janet Gilliard
413 West Orange Street
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-6349
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County Extension

Lochrane Gary
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Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-2164
Fax 863-773-6861

County Library

Diane Hunt
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Wauchula, FL 33873
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County Probation

Peter Zelyk
412 West Orange Street
Room A-203
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E-911

Veteran's Affairs
Larry Pelton
149 K.D. Revell Road
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Fax 863-773-3827

Maintenance Shop

Gary Miller
205 Hanchey Road
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Fax 863-773-3558

Mining

Doug Knight
110 South 9th Street
Wauchula, FL 33873
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Fax 863-767-0360

Personnel

Pioneer Park Days
Jane Long
205 Hanchey Road
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-2161
Fax 863-773-2164

Pioneer Park

Ed Hampton
P.O. Box 1078
Zolfo Springs, FL 33890
Phone 863-773-0330

Purchasing

Dee Newgent
205 Hanchey Road
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-5014
Fax 863-773-0322

Soil Conservation

Howard Richards
505 Civic Center Drive
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone 863-773-9644
Fax 863-773-2445

Solid Waste Landfill

Animal Control
Janice Williamson
P.O. Box 246
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Phone 863-773-5089
Fax 863-773-3907

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Historical Overview

In December of 1985, pursuant to FS 129.025, the Board appointed the first Budget Officer for Hardee County. Prior to 1985 the Clerk of Courts was responsible for Budget related activities. The duties of Budget Officer include, but are not limited to preparation of the budget and budget amendments, investment of excess funds, preparation of the annual report, and other related duties as assigned by the County Manager. The Budget Officer functions in the capacity of an internal auditor, ensuring that laws and procedures pertaining to budgeting and finance are carried out in the appropriate manner.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to ensure that the County has sufficient fiscal resources available to improve and develop services that will enhance the quality of living in Hardee County.

Activities and Accomplishments

Taxable Value and Millage Rates

In fiscal year 2000/2001, the Board assessed a millage rate of 8.75 mills and the taxable value in Hardee County was \$824,793,000. The total amount of Ad Valorem taxes collected was \$7,032,173 with \$2,551,969 being credited to the General Revenue Fund and \$4,480,204 credited to the Fine and Forfeiture Fund. This fiscal year was the third year the Board assessed a millage rate of 8.75 mills. In 1998 the millage rate was 9.75 mills and prior to that the millage rate was capped at 10 mills for an eight year period. Millage was reduced in anticipation of receiving sales tax funds from the one cent small county surtax which was imposed following the redemption of the Sales Tax Bond for the construction of the jail. The small county surtax generates approximately one million dollars annually.

Budget Process

During this past year's budget process for the adoption of the 2001/2002 fiscal year budget the Board reduced millage to 8.5 mills. The taxable value increased by 7.78% for a total taxable value of \$888,928,390. The Board carefully



analyzed the proposed expenditures and prior to the adoption of the budget, reduced proposed expenditures by two percent.

Revenues Affected by Legislation

As reported last year the County has been experiencing gradual reductions in funds received through the State Revenue Sharing program. Legislation approved during the 1999 legislative session significantly reduced the intangibles tax, and because this is the primary source of revenue through the Revenue Sharing Program, the county sustained severe cuts in funding. Further reductions to state revenue sharing funds were made in the 2000 fiscal year. Prior to these decreases in funding the county received approximately \$550,000, however during fiscal year 2000 we received \$482,000 and during 2001 that amount was reduced to \$419,569.

Last year we reported that changes benefiting the County had been made to the distribution formula for the phosphate severance tax. Counties previously received 10% of severance tax funds in proportion to the tons of phosphate produced in Hardee County. This percentage was increased from 10% to 18%. This year the County has approached our legislators with additional changes to the severance tax distribution formula. We prepared draft legislation which proposed that Hardee County receive fifty percent of the severance tax paid by phosphate companies mining in Hardee County. The justification for this increase was Hardee County's designation by the Governor as "An Rural Area Of Critical Economic Concern". If the County

is successful with the proposed legislation the estimated return will be approximately \$5.7 million and these funds will be used to provide assistance with economic development in Hardee County. The legislative session is currently underway and we should know by the end of March if additional funds will be allocated to Hardee County.

Debt

During this past year the Board borrowed \$4,000,000 through the Florida Local Government Finance Commission to assist with major road and bridge improvements throughout the County. After conducting much research to determine what financing option would be the most feasible to assist with the funding of this project, we determined that the Pooled Commercial Loan Program through the Florida Association of Counties would provide us with the best interest rates. Fees and interest paid through September were \$75,349.91 with an average interest rate of 3.82%.

Investments

During this past year, we began investing funds with the Florida Local Government Investment Trust Fund in an effort to generate a larger return on the dollar. \$2,300,000 of the funds borrowed through FAC which were not being utilized for construction, were invested in this program and interest gained through September was \$109,680.56 and exceeded the interest and fees paid by \$34,330.65. Through the end of September \$4,400,000 was invested with FLGIT and for a six month period investment earnings were \$200,765.40 for a 4.56% return.

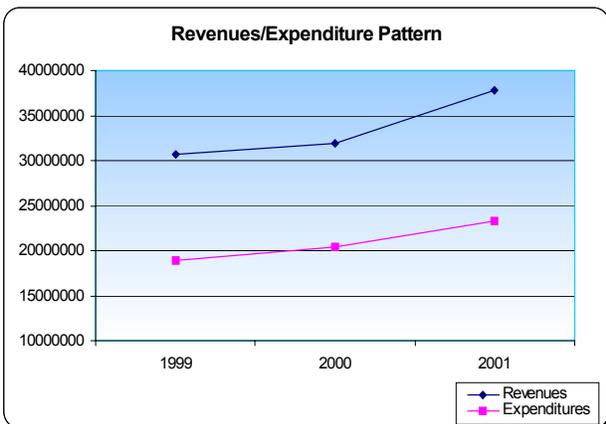
Revenue/Expenditure Summary

Total revenues collected during 2000/2001 excluding fund balances and debt service were \$22,437,692 and expenditures were \$22,031,429. This year overall revenue collections exceeded expenditures by \$406,263 which is a significant improvement compared to last year when expenditures exceeded revenues by \$963,621.

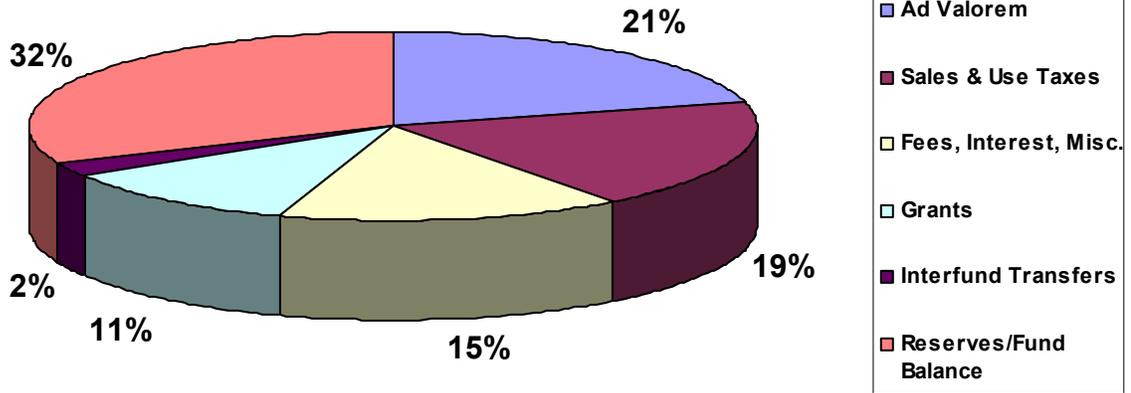
Breakdown in total revenues and expenditures collected, as indicated on page 6 of this report, are as follows:

<u>Revenues</u>		
Ad Valorem		7,032,173
Sales & Use Taxes		5,948,681
Fees, Interest, Misc.		5,280,388
Grants		2,905,775
Interfund Transfers		1,270,675
Total	\$	22,437,692
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Personal Services		5,915,118
Operating Expenses		3,372,560
Capital Expenses		3,853,720
Elected Officials		6,106,891
Aid to Agencies		241,413
Health Care		959,201
Non Operating		1,582,525
Total	\$	22,031,429

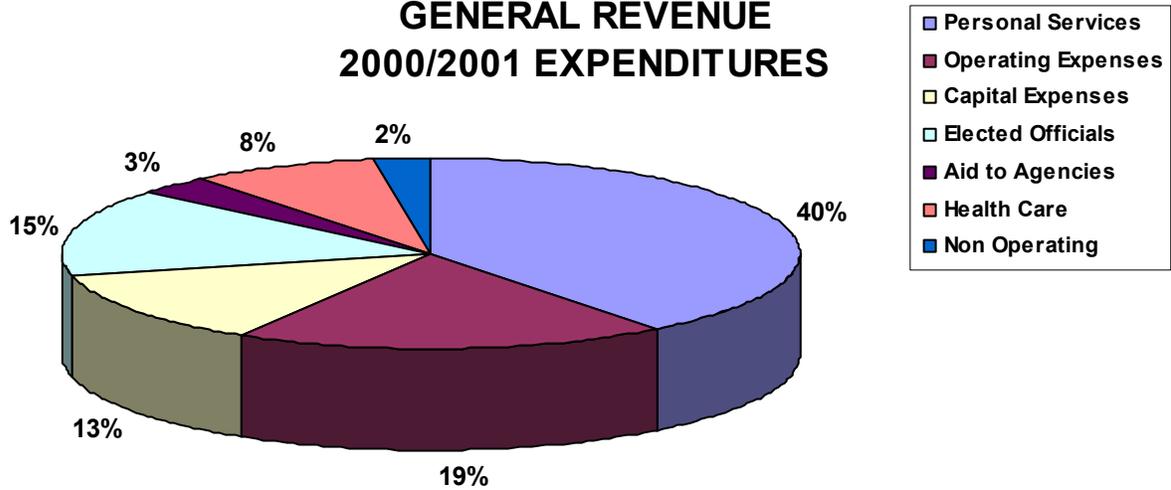
The Chart below shows a pattern of revenues and expenditures for the past three years. As indicated in the chart, overall the County has maintained sufficient revenues to cover expenses and has maintained an approximate cash forward balance of \$10,000,000. In 2001 surplus cash forward funds increased somewhat because of revenues received for road construction. Though the overall balance is significant, of some fifteen established funds, the only fund without restricted uses is the General Revenue Fund which maintains an approximate cash forward balance of \$4,000,000. These excess funds are taken into consideration during the budget process and are encumbered each year for a specific use.



GENERAL REVENUE 2000/2001 REVENUES



GENERAL REVENUE 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues		Expenditures	
Ad Valorem	2,551,969	Personal Services	3,162,149
Sales & Use Taxes	2,311,978	Operating Expenses	1,520,977
Fees, Interest, Misc.	1,844,220	Capital Expenses	1,026,773
Grants	1,355,559	Elected Officials	1,177,043
Interfund Transfers	302,964	Aid to Agencies	241,413
Reserves/Fund Balance	3,840,763	Health Care	677,659
		Non Operating	196,534
Total	\$ 12,207,452.03	Total	\$ 8,002,549.36

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

This Department is responsible for the maintenance of all County owned buildings which include: Courthouse, Annex I & II, Building & Zoning, Public Works, Purchasing, Vehicle Maintenance Shop, Solid Waste Office, Animal Control, Hardee County Sheriffs complex, Civic Center, Health Department, Fire Department (Wauchula & Zolfo Springs stations), Tri-County Addictions, Main Street Wauchula, Community Development, Emergency Management, Resthaven, all buildings within County operated Parks, as well as several small buildings. This Department also renovates buildings for office space with in-house personnel, eliminating the need for many contractual services.

Our goals can only be achieved by constant planning and scheduling of projects and maintenance items, along with the diligent effort put forth by all members of our Staff. The Buildings and Grounds Staff consist of a Superintendent, one Executive Secretary and Electrician/A.C. Specialist, one Labor Supervisor, five Custodial Workers, two Groundskeepers, and nine General Maintenance Mechanics.

The Custodial Workers maintain a regular weekly schedule for cleaning offices and public areas. They also maintain a schedule for stripping and waxing floors in many of our buildings. At times it is necessary to contract the services of floor care professionals when the areas are too large for regular maintenance by our Staff.

These services are required for buildings such as the Health Department and Annex II.



The Labor Supervisor manages a crew of Trustee/Laborers from the County Jail. This crew performs a variety of tasks within the County. They have been instrumental in the completion of many of our projects. This crew works regularly at Pioneer Park where they mow, trim trees, pick up garbage, etc. They also help Veteran's Affairs/E911 Coordinator Larry Pelton on a regular basis unloading and distributing commodities.

The General Maintenance Mechanics and Electrician/A.C. Specialist employed by this Department are truly "Jacks of all trades" as they are skilled in and perform all aspects of building maintenance and construction. This year they have faced monumental tasks, and were successful in fulfilling these demands with a tremendous amount of effort and teamwork.

Mission Statement

It is our goal to provide a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for all County Staff as well as the general public that visit our facilities.

Activities and Accomplishments

This year has been an extremely busy year for this department. We completed some very large projects along with our regular maintenance. These projects are as follows:

Re-roofing of the Civic Center; complete renovation of the former Sheriff's Office into office space to accommodate the State Attorney and State Probation offices. This project was an enormous undertaking, as an extensive amount of demolition was required before construction could begin. The old cell bars were removed from the structure with the use of acetylene torches. This was an extremely time consuming process. The animal pens, feed room and office at the new Animal Refuge in Pioneer Park were completed. The West End Addition to the Maintenance Shop is near completion. This new addition will be office space for the Public Works Office, consisting of the Road & Bridge Department, the Buildings & Grounds Department and the Parks & Recreations Department.

Several projects began and will continue in to the following year among these are: The 3rd Floor Courthouse Renovations, the addition to the Nickerson/Ullrich Building in Pioneer Park, Public Works Office.



Courthouse Renovations

Goals and Objectives for 2002

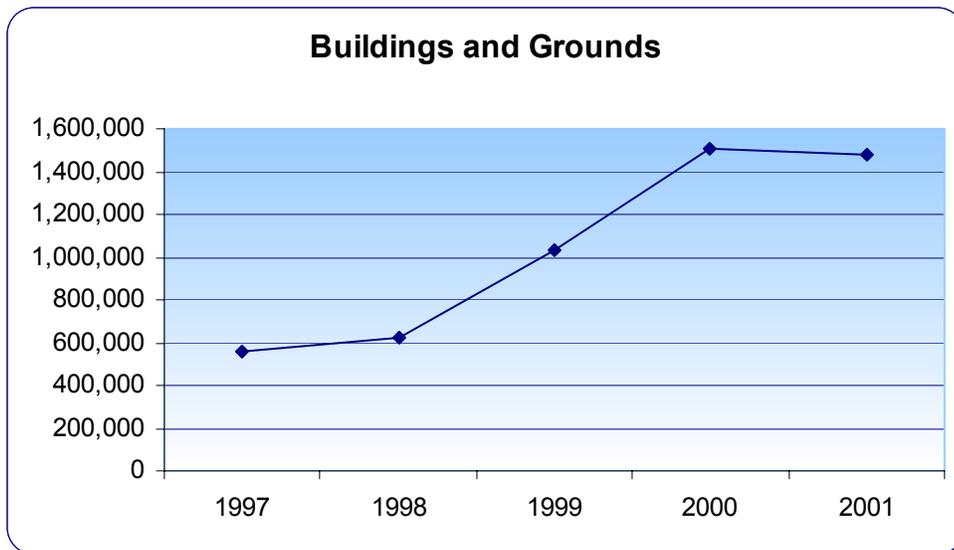
In the coming year we will endeavor to maintain a strong working relationship with the Board, as well as, all other Departments with in County Government. We will strive to maintain the morale of our employees at the highest level possible at all times. This will enable our department to meet the expectations and needs of those who depend on us to make their time at work as safe, comfortable and convenient as possible.

Once again we have a very busy schedule to maintain. We intend to complete several projects continued from the previous year, in addition to completing those projects planned for the 2002. At Annex II, we will be replacing the carpet in the hallways with tile. At Resthaven, we will be replacing the roof. At the Civic Center we will be replacing the metal doors and painting the interior. In many of the older County buildings we will be replacing the locks for ADA and security purposes. At the Sheriff's Complex we will be constructing much needed storage area.



New Public Works Facility

Project Amounts for FY 00/01		
P01-07	Courthouse	\$ 44,233.44
P01-21	Public Works	\$113,447.85
P01-24	Civic Center	\$ 83,724.00
P01-69	Sheriff's Dept.	\$ 10,259.42
P01-80	Maintenance Shop	\$ 117.15
P01-101	Nickerson/Ullrich	\$ 10,587.44
P01-142	Old Jail	\$143,056.18
P01-145	CH Generator	\$ 14,672.80
TOTAL		\$420,098.28



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	254,304.55	282,341.97	290,585.48	501,025.81	629,188.60	644,402
Operating	200,323.35	275,050.35	334,141.25	358,023.17	394,033.94	352,200
Capital Outlay	103,000.56	69,107.37	404,387.06	648,425.32	454,729.22	1,430,700
TOTAL	557,628.46	626,499.69	1,029,113.79	1,507,474.30	1,477,951.76	2,427,302



PERSONNEL

Personnel consists of two (2) full time employees. The Personnel Department is responsible for Board related concerns which are itemized on the attached memorandum.

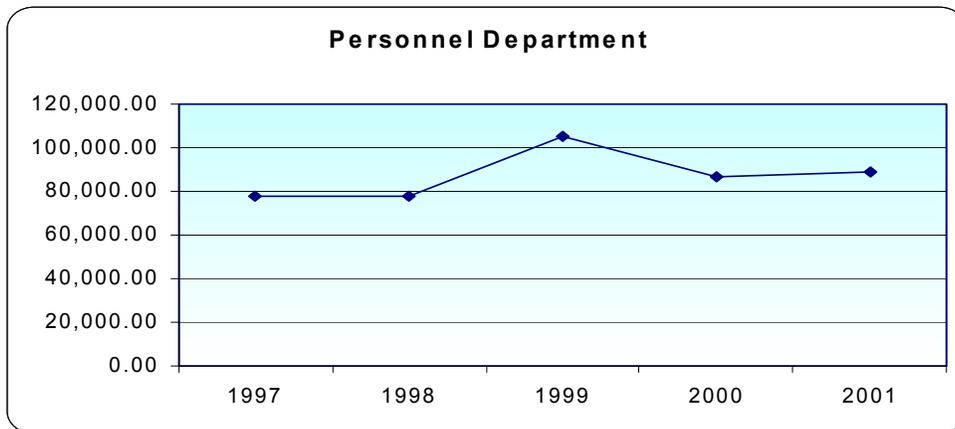
Mission Statement

This department seeks to provide employees with an “open door” policy which reduces personnel conflicts and potential legal claims. The Personnel department also investigates all accidents (liability and worker’s compensation) to assure a mini

mal exposure. Additionally recommendations are made to the Board of County Commissioners to continue the trend of providing quality benefits for County employees.

Activities and Accomplishments

The Personnel Department works very closely with all departments to ensure disciplinary matters, selections for employment and other labor issues are properly handled in accordance with Hardee County Rules and Regulations, and State and Federal laws. This department processes the filing of worker’s compensation cases and liability cases including assisting the insurance carrier and attorneys to maintain a minimal cost. Personnel is responsible for payroll for all the employees under the Board of County Commissioners which include benefits. This office is responsible for negotiations of two union contracts. During the months of November thru March plans and preparations are in progress for the annual Pioneer Park Days which entails numerous hours to ensure the show is profitable and a success.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	64,401.24	67,758.23	73,765.76	75,150.37	80,736.52	86,353.00
Operating	11,149.64	9,613.88	31,343.32	9,260.04	8,227.71	15,750.00
Capital Outlay	2,039.00	504.00	0	2,592.90	0	0
TOTAL	\$77,589.88	\$77,876.11	\$105,109.08	\$87,003.31	\$88,964.23	\$102,103.00

BUILDING AND ZONING

The mission of the Building / Zoning Department remains that of providing quality service in an efficient manner to the citizens of Hardee County and to the Builder / Developer seeking to construct new projects within Hardee County; to manage growth in an orderly manner in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code; to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Hardee County by ensuring that all structures are constructed according to adopted codes and ordinances.

Activities and Accomplishments

- New Super Wal-Mart / Murphy Oil
- New Wendy's
- New Seminole Electric Power Plant
- Streamlining permit procedures
- New Badcock furniture store
- 1.3 million Remodeling Kash 'n Karry
- Developed a more "public friendly" Public Relations policy
- New addition to FINR
- Vandolah Power Plant

In FY 00/01 a Building Inspector was hired and the Chief Building Inspector position is currently vacant.

The FY 00 / 01 Budget included one Building / Zoning Official, one Building Inspector, one Planner

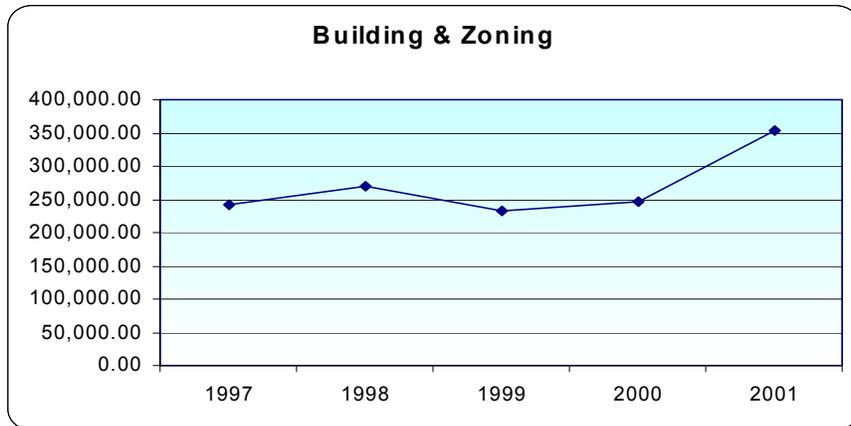


I, one Executive Secretary, one Permit Technician, and one Code Enforcement Officer.

In FY 00/01 the Building Department issued 3,417 and conducted 1,603 field inspections. The Zoning Department processed requests for Special Exception, Variance, Re-Zone,

Exception to Policy, Major Special Exception, Temporary Special Use Permit, and Site Development Plans approval.

In FY 00/01 the Code Enforcement Officer; initiated 321 cases, issued 21 citations, issued 163 door hanger notices, sent 15 cases to Special Master that generated \$55,689.00 in property liens, issued 103 stop work orders, made 581 follow-up inspections and closed 349 cases, \$360.00 fines were paid from citations issued.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	180,670.31	198,230.65	180,644.57	193,241.59	269,869.17	403,582.00
Operating	38,172.36	46,239.09	48,690.30	49,718.44	79,675.41	117,182.00
Capital Outlay	22,243.71	25,567.59	2,803.00	4,178.73	4,854.78	62,060.00
TOTAL	241,086.38	270,037.33	232,137.87	247,138.76	354,399.36	582,824.00

**HARDEE COUNTY
BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT
CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT – OCTOBER 1999 thru SEPTEMBER 2000**

	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Collected</u>	BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES	<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>COLLECTED</u>
BUILDING PERMITS	323	\$ 77,445.13	SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED	66	\$ 4,687,550.00
SURCHARGE	285	\$ 4,448.17	SINGLE FAMILY ATTACHED	4	\$ 50,000.00
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	2,453	\$ 10,052.50	MANUFACTURED MOBILE	100	\$ 2,504,743.97
PLUMBING PERMITS	49	\$ 2,802.50	CHURCHES / OTHER RELIGIOUS		-
MECHANICAL PERMITS	93	\$ 5,728.00	AMUSEMENT, SOCIAL, RECR.	2	\$ 4,200.00
ROOFING PERMITS	146	\$ 5,216.17	INDUSTRIAL	3	\$ 103,400.00
MOBILE HOME/PARK MODEL PERMITS	103	\$ 15,450.00	OFFICES, BANKS, PROFESSIONAL	6	\$ 197,130.00
MOBILE HOME ADDITION	129	\$ 4,472.20	PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES	8	\$ 2,705,680.00
MOBILE HOME PRE-INSPECTION	36	\$ 3,600.00	SCHOOLS / OTHER EDUC.		-
COMMERCIAL MOBILE TRAILER	-	-			
TOWER PERMITS	1	\$ 945.00			
MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS	29	\$ 2,230.00	STORES / CUSTOMER SERV.	30	\$ 10,668,673.00
LATE FEES/PENALTIES	14	\$ 700.00	OTHER NON-RESIDENTIAL BLDG	27	\$ 294,005.00
DOUBLE PERMIT	14	\$ 2,422.16	STRUCTURES NOT BLDG	70	\$ 919,873.00
GAS PERMITS	16	\$ 501.00	RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS	343	\$ 1,504,360.12
ALARM PERMITS	40	\$ 1,360.00	NON-RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS	122	\$ 1,443,298.00
PLANS REVIEW FEE	391	\$ 19,525.00	MOBILE HOME ADDITIONS	175	\$ 416,237.50
RESIDUALS LAND SPREAD FEE	3	\$ 708.00	DEMOLITION S/F HOUSES		
DEMOLITION PERMIT	15	\$ 750.00	BUILDING	3	\$ 5,000.00
REINSPECTION FEES	7	\$ 185.00	HOUSING UNIT	10	\$ 11,800.00
MISCELLANEOUS (COPIES)	-	-	TOTAL PERMITS:	982	
SPECIAL EXCEPTION	15	\$ 3,750.00	TOTAL VALUATION OF CONSTRUCTION		
VARIANCE	4	\$ 800.00	\$25,718,850.59		
RE-ZONE	7	\$ 2,100.00	INDIVIDUAL PERMITS AUTHORIZING		
EXCEPT. TO POLICY L1.15	6	\$ 1,394.00	CONSTRUCTION VALUED AT \$500,000+	5	\$ 12,059,339.12
TEMPORARY SPECIAL USE PERMIT	3	\$ 750.00			
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	7	\$ 1,050.00			
MINOR S/D	14	\$ 1,532.00			
MAJOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION	3	\$ 900.00			
SPECIAL MASTER ADMIN FEES	23	\$ 9,640.00			
APPEAL DECISION OF P/Z BOARD	-	-			
COMPETENCY CARDS	122	\$ 15,790.00			
COMP CARD LATE FEES	8	\$ 36.50			
INSPECTIONS/UNSAFE BUILDING ABATEMENT – COW	-	-			
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED:		<u>\$189,121.08</u>			

BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	COUNTY	1,104
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	COUNTY	\$ 151,686.80
BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	CITY B.G.	120
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	CITY B.G.	\$ 10,553.58
BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	CITY WAUC	313
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	CITY WAUC	\$ 22,194.59
BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	TOWN Z.S	66
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	TOW Z.S.	\$ 4,706.11
TOTAL INSPECTIONS		1,603
TOTAL REVENUE		\$189,121.08

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HISTORICAL PROFILE

The Hardee County Building and Zoning Department was authorized in 1992 to establish a grants coordinator position to receive and administer an annual allocation of State funds for the State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) that was established under the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act. The program provided an annual allocation of \$250,000 for rehabilitation and emergency repairs for single family owner-occupied houses. The grants function continued to expand in order to pursue other types of grant funding under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, to support the ongoing requirements of Hardee County. In October of 1997, the grants function evolved to become the Office of Community Development, a stand-alone department reporting to the County Manager. The administrative expenses for the department are, in most instances, subsidized by one or more grants.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Community Development Department had essentially three mission objectives. The first is to provide the technical support to the various County Departments for the submission of grant applications and subsequent administration of those grants unique to their individual areas of functionality. The second is to identify, apply for, and upon award, administer and manage the various grants that further the short and long term goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners. And lastly, to identify and apply for grants that further the goals and objectives inherent with preservation and availability of affordable housing, both rental and for ownership, for the low to moderate income households of Hardee County. As a by-product to and in support of the preceding activities, the Department coordinates, provides office area and facilitates many free services for Hardee County's low to moderate income residents. The services include, but are not limited to, USDA - Rural Development (mortgages and repair) and Centro Campesino application assistance, legal counseling, for family law and land use issues, financial counseling, family assistance support team, etc.



Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Board of County Commissioners designated the Director of Community Development, Mr. Joseph Lach, to serve on the Manatee Opportunity Council, Inc. (MOC) Board of Directors as Hardee County's representative. The County currently receives a yearly allotment from the Community Services Block Grant, administered through the MOC. The allotment for FY 00/01 was \$17,000. The Board has designated that 75% of these funds be designated for HOPE of Hardee and the remaining 25% to Redlands Christian Migrant Association. Funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis.

The following lists several of the activities performed by Community Development during Fiscal Year 00/01 to assist in providing funding requirement for other county departments.

Buildings and Grounds

OCD applied to the Department of State, Division of Historic Preservation for a grant in the amount of \$8,500 (with an \$8,500 match from the County) for the purpose of developing the plan for the rehabilitation of the 1927 Hardee County Courthouse. The grant was subsequently awarded. OCD subsequently applied to the Department of State, Division of Historic Preservation for a grant in the amount of \$484,861 with a \$509,328 match from the County to eliminate further deterioration and to restore the courthouse to its original beauty. The County was awarded a \$350,000 grant. The restoration activities began in October 2001. Based on the current timeline for the restoration project, all activities should be completed in August 2002.



Hardee Lakes Park

In October 2000, OCD provided assistance to submit an application to DEP for a FRDAP grant. The County was awarded \$200,000 for the development of the Hardee Lakes project. This project, once completed, would provide access to the only public lakes in Hardee County.

In July 2001, OCD applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in the amount of \$150,000. DEP notified OCD in December 2001 that the County has been recommended for funding. OCD anticipates confirmation of a grant award sometime in January 2002. This grant is also for the development of the Hardee Lakes project.

Fire/Rescue

In 2001, we provided grant writing assistance to the Fire/Rescue Department. They applied for a Fire Bill grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This was the first-ever federal program of assistance to local fire departments. Fire/Rescue submitted an application for funding in two categories. In the Vehicle category, the request was for \$308,511 to purchase a new pumper/tanker. In the Firefighting Equipment category, the request was for \$12,647 to purchase a sufficient quantity of hand-held two-way radios to ensure each member of their crew had a means to communicate during a fire event.

There were a total of 31,295 applications, with their requests totaling \$2.99 billion. Out of the 31,295 applications, only 1,855 were awarded. The grant awards amounted to a grant total of \$91,996,440.

According to Mr. Rodney Slaughter, an experienced presenter and instructor for conferences, workshops and training programs for fire service related grants; the grant program was targeted towards the most needy fire departments. He further stated that a lot of needy departments didn't receive a grant in this program's first year because there simply wasn't enough money to go around.

Pioneer Park Animal Refuge

During FY 00/01, we closed out two Florida Recreation Development assistance program (FRDAP) grants for the new Pioneer Park Animal Refuge. Each grant represents an award in the amount of \$100,000 with a one for one match requirement. The Grand Opening for the Pioneer Park Animal Refuge was held on July 4th of year 2001.

In October 2001, OCD provided the assistance to submit an application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for another FRDAP grant for \$100,000 to fund the next phase of construction to provide an aviary and to further enhance several of the existing animal enclosures.

Emergency Management

At the end of 2000, OCD was able to assist the Emergency Management department with completing a mini-grant application to provide bicycle helmets to very-low income children in minority communities through the Bike Florida and "Share the Road" campaign. Hardee County Emergency Management was awarded \$993.60 for youth helmets.





Community Services

Sometimes, families come into the OCD office needing assistance that OCD programs do not allow assistance for. In July, a non-English speaking family came into OCD seeking assistance because their house and all its contents had been destroyed in a fire. They had nowhere to go. OCD is fortunate to have a staff member that is bilingual and was able to assist this family with contacting their insurance company and several organizations who could provide immediate assistance to them. OCD was able to coordinate with the American Red Cross to provide the family with food, clothing and financial assistance for rental housing. OCD also coordinated a donation of additional clothing for the family with St. Michael's Church.

In October, an elderly couple living on a fixed income requested assistance with a plumbing problem. Before they contacted OCD, they had paid someone to fix the leak, using money set aside for their mortgage payment. The repair was unsuccessful and also left them with a high water bill and behind on their mortgage. OCD's SHIP program was able to pay for the repair of their plumbing problem, but the couple was still in a financial bind. OCD was able to coordinate financial assistance with the water bill through St. Michael's Church. OCD also coordinated financial assistance with their delinquent mortgage payment through the Hardee Help Center. This brought the couple's finances up-to-date.

The stories above are typical of the many calls and visits that OCD receives requesting assistance beyond OCD program scopes.

Housing Programs - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)

Under the Housing Assistance Plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, the program will provide assistance to preserve and protect the existing housing stock within Hardee County. The programs include rehabilitation, emergency repairs, home purchase finance assistance and disaster recovery.

The programs are only available to owner-occupied, single-family units where the total income and assets of the total household meet the SHIP program requirements. The following is provided to indicate by program, the number of individual housing units served by the SHIP Program for fiscal year 2000/2001 and program to date.

SHIP	Units to date	Year 00-01	Average per unit
Rehabilitation	212*	23	\$6,798
Emergency	332*	58	\$1,014
Home Purchase	54*	14	\$4,932
Disaster Recovery	10*	10	\$4,076

*unaudited

The Rehabilitation Program provides repairs to housing units of income-qualified homeowners to provide a healthy and safe living environment. This includes the elimination of safety issues related to electric service, heating and plumbing. Generally, any unit requiring roof repair or replacement has that activity completed prior to scheduling rehabilitation activity for the housing unit.

The Emergency Repair Program provides expedited repairs to eliminate an immediate health and safety hazard such as water line breaks, wiring or circuit breaker hazards, termite or rotted joist repairs, etc. In general, all repairs within the limit of the program are to prevent further deterioration of the housing unit.

Under both the Rehabilitation and Emergency Repair Programs, alterations are made to the housing units to accommodate physically challenged household members. All modifications made are in accordance with ADA guidelines.

The Home Ownership Assistance Program provides down payment and closing cost assistance for first time home buyers.

The Disaster Relief strategy is declared by the County in times of need. Most recent disasters with this need were the local drought and the flooding of Storm Gabrielle.

In addition to the SHIP entitlement, other grants are applied for each year for housing rehabilitation and other community needs. Community Development Block Grants have been awarded for housing rehabilitation for several years and also for Drought 2000.

CDBG	Units to date	Year 00-01	Average per unit
Rehabilitation	168		\$17,996
Drought 2000	35	35	\$3,209

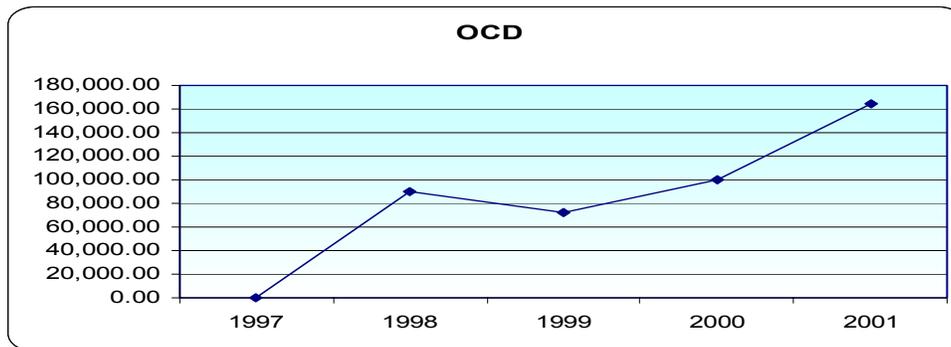
Economic Development - Vandolah Road Sewer Service Area

In order to further economic growth within Hardee County, OCD submitted a Community Development Block Grant application for Economic Development to the Department of Community Affairs requesting \$750,000 to assist with the development of a waste water treatment plant of sufficient capacity to service the waste water treatment daily load that will result from the major expansion of Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation,

Inc. facilities. Their expansion will create 127 new jobs for Hardee County residents. The grant was awarded. OCD subsequently submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration requesting \$932,000 for the expansion of the waste water treatment facility to service the “Vandolah Industrial/Commercial Corridor”. This grant was also awarded. The combined funding for the Vandolah Sewer Service Area is \$1.682 million.

GRANT REVENUE STREAM

Over the life of the “Grant Department”, we have been successful in gaining awards that total in excess of \$10.5 million dollars. Several of the grants provide funds for the cost of administration. The grants administrative dollars were used to directly reduce the cost to the County for the operation of the grants department. As with most grants, there is a secondary benefit to the award and that is the financial impact on the community. In the instance of the housing type activities, there is the benefit to local contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, service stations, restaurants and perhaps equally important the additional real estate and sales taxes resulting from the various activities. Funds directed toward infrastructure enhancements or improvements have the secondary benefit of providing local jobs and furthering the opportunities for economic growth.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	0	56,908.66	61,499.73	83,984.69	141,620.06	138,977.00
Operating	0	10,087.95	10,311.31	16,104.85	18,194.74	20,200.00
Capital Outlay	0	22,509.36	909.00	180.00	4,741.00	5,000.00
TOTAL	0	89,505.97	72,720.04	100,269.54	164,555.80	164,177.00

Office of Community Development

PARKS AND RECREATIONS

This Department is responsible for maintaining all County owned parks which include Magnolia Manor Park, Hardee Park, and Pioneer Park. This Department consists of a Superintendent, 6 full-time and 2 part-time staff members.

Mission Statement

The mission of this Department is to provide a source of recreation and entertainment, that will meet the needs and interests of the entire community. It is our goal, to strive to provide a variety of clean, well maintained recreationally developed areas with-in the County that will serve all our residents, as the desires of our community are continually growing and changing.

Activities and Accomplishments

Pioneer Park is the largest County owned park and is host to a variety of community events. This park requires constant maintenance and improvements. Along with our regular maintenance, this department has been replacing the wooden picnic tables in the park with more durable concrete tables, built with the assistance of the Buildings and Grounds Department. New garbage receptacles have also been installed replacing the barrels that were previously used. These new containers were provided for by grant money received through the Solid Waste Department. Several annual events are held throughout the year. Pioneer Park Days, held the first full week end in March, is by far the largest and most popular of these events. This event features a flea market, antique tractors, engines and cars. A variety of entertainment is presented



daily from both people in and outside of the community. Thousands of people come each year to visit and enjoy Pioneer Park Days. This is an important boost to the economic welfare of our community.

The annual Fourth of July Celebration was held this year in conjunction with the grand opening of the of the Hardee County Animal Refuge. The people of the community could come to the park and tour the Refuge free of charge. There were activities for the children and entertainment for everyone. The celebration came to a close with a spectacular display of fireworks.

The Heartland Dog Show is scheduled for the third weekend of April. This event is a dog lovers dream. The animals that participate in this show are some of the finest breeds from across the United States.

The Animal Refuge is, with out a doubt, one of the greatest assets to Pioneer Park and to the community. The Refuge features a boardwalk 1200 feet in length, winding through the natural surroundings that the ani-



imals now call home. Along the boardwalk, five viewing nodes were constructed,

which provide a place for visitors to observe the animals and read the informational placards for each exhibit. This new facility has made visiting the animals a much more pleasant experience. The Refuge entertains approximately 1,000 guests each month. The Refuge houses 2 bears, 2 cougars, 3 ostriches, 4 raccoons, 2 foxes, 1 alligator, " with house guests", 3 deer, and 5 turkeys. The animals are in a natural habitat, which has proven to be advantageous to their mental and physical welfare.

The Animal Refuge acquired some new residents this year. Vernon Yates donated one 1 otter, 1 raccoon and 1 opossum to our facility.

This year we were able to install new playground equipment at the Park. This was made possible as a part of the grant money received for the Animal Refuge. The installation of this equipment has been a wonderful addition to the park. The playground has, and will continue, to create a great deal of enjoyment for the children of our community, as well as, those visiting from surrounding areas.

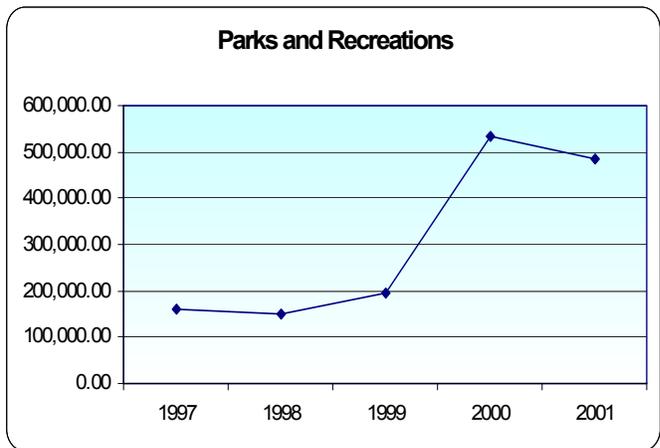
Project Amounts for FY 00/01:

P01-130 Animal Refuge \$ 218,901.46

Goals and Objectives for 2002

At Pioneer Park we plan to install a new sewer line that will link the park to the Town of Zolfo Springs sewer system. This will be a much needed improvement to the park and will eliminate the need for continuous pumping of septic tanks during Pioneer Park Days.

In the Animal Refuge there are plans to build a pool for the bear pen, and pens for the otter and opossum.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	67,536.52	73,224.95	82,580.13	105,844.04	153,419.88	101,194.00
Operating	70,777.24	60,583.74	62,096.91	69,591.76	81,775.75	74,700.00
Capital Outlay	23,476.92	17,739.00	51,442.65	357,903.57	248,615.55	157,000.00
TOTAL	161,790.68	151,547.69	196,119.69	533,339.37	483,811.18	332,894.00

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

F.S. 1998

SERVICE OFFICER – CODE OF ETHICS

1. Keep the confidence of all veterans. The Service Office and veteran's counselors learn, through military records and through personal conversation, many intimate details concerning the veteran's life. This information must not be revealed to any except to those personally connected with the case.

2. They will assist veterans in preparing claims, which are entirely honest. They will prepare claims in order to put the best light on the claim. Any information, which is known to be dishonest, will not be included.

3. The Service Officer maintains high professional standards in his dealing with other Service Officers of Veterans' Counselors, never being critical of them.

4. They are nonpartisan between veterans' organizations. They will render service to any veterans or veterans' organization or to those who belong to none. Race or religious preference has no bearing on the cases they will handle.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Veterans' Affairs of Hardee County is to inform the Veterans' and/or their dependents of benefits to which they are entitled, and to assist them in obtaining those benefits by filing claims and supporting documents that will justify their claims:



To file for the above without regard to race, gender, nationality or religious



preference, preparing an honest claim, presented in the best terms and maintaining the client's confidentiality: to maintain the highest standards of honesty, integrity, impartial conduct and judgment: to work with Veterans organizations within Hardee County, with the State of Florida, with the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs and with other agencies and entities as necessary to assist the Veteran or dependent.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Gave service to 410 Veterans' and/or dependents.
2. Prepared 2,063 documents pertaining to claims and/or supporting documents justifying claims.
3. Phone calls in/out totaled 6,386.
4. Attended three (3) meetings with Congressional Caseworkers at Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center.
5. Attended County Veterans Service Officer Spring and Fall Training Conferences.

Attended eight (8) American Legion Meetings.

Veterans Service Office is also responsible for bimonthly distribution of commodities.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Temporary Emergency Food

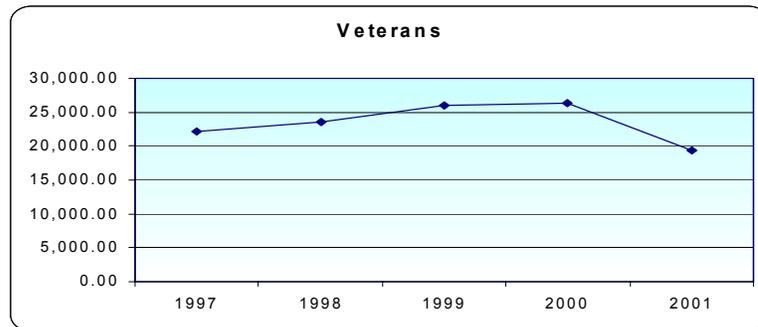
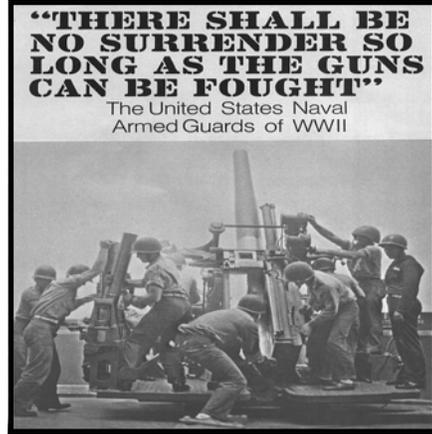
Assistance Program (TEFAP) has a contract with Hardee County to distribute commodities.

As the administering agency for TEFAP, this office is responsible for ordering, allocating and ensuring accountability for all TEFAP commodities. We also handle reimbursement request for expenses, where applicable.

The annual contract term is from October 1 through September 30 each fiscal year.

A household may receive USDA donated commodities under the TEFAP if they are eligible for one of the following programs:

1. Food Stamps: Proof of eligibility is a Notice of Decision. The household may be certified only for the period specified in the notice.
2. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC): Proof of eligibility is a Notice of Decision or a copy of the AFDC check. The client may be certified for a maximum of one year.
3. Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Proof of eligibility is a Notice of Decision for Medicaid Eligibility or a copy of the SSI check. The client may be certified for a maximum of one year.
4. Residence in Public Housing funded by Municipal, County or State Government: Proof of eligibility is a housing project ID card or the address listed on a Florida driver's license/ID, rent receipt or other appropriate documentation of residence. A client may be certified for the period of time listed on the approval for public housing or up to one year.



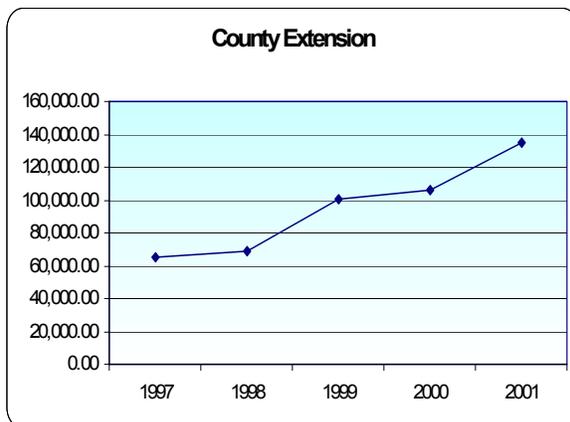
Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	15,610.49	17,157.39	18,360.29	20,885.87	16,053.25	9,665.00
Operating	6,566.33	6,383.14	7,643.59	5,420.66	3,251.74	5,500.00
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	22,176.82	23,540.53	26,003.88	26,306.53	19,304.99	15,165.00

FLORIDA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service is a three way partnership of Federal (USDA) State (University of Florida) and County (Hardee BOCC) government created by the Smith-Lever Act. This partnership was established in order to insure that useful knowledge generated by research units be interpreted for and delivered to the people of Hardee County. The primary extension programs are in agriculture, (beef cattle, dairy cattle, citrus, horticulture and vegetables) 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and energy information. This budget includes the agriculture agent, family and consumer sciences agent, 4-H agent, para-professional extension program assistant and one full time secretary. The citrus and dairy programs are carried out by multi-county agents who are not funded by the county. In addition to this staff, the local extension office has a grant paid Food and Nutrition program assistant.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hardee County Cooperative Extension Service provides researched based educational information and services in the areas of agriculture, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicapping conditions or national origin.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	56,014	58,177.89	82,847	87,443.55	96,750.99	103,379.00
Operating	6,645	8,949.19	15,903	18,530.15	19,030.92	19,270.00
Capital Outlay	2,409	1,907.54	1,741	0	18,878.00	4,800.00
TOTAL	\$65,067	\$69,034.62	\$100,491	\$105,973.70	\$134,659.91	\$127,449.00

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over one hundred and sixty Extension programs were conducted by the extension personnel in our facility.



These programs include:

- Reproductive Management School
- Beef Cattle Herd Health
- Winter Supplementation Program
- Herd Bull Selection
- Beef Cattle Management Short Course
- Hay, Forage and Grazing Options
- Water Quality BMP'S for Cow-calf producers
- Mole Cricket Control Seminar
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention (weekly class)
- Financial Planning-Budget Box (monthly classes)
- Family and Consumer Sciences Council (monthly)
- Family Nutrition Program
- 4-H Leader Training (monthly)
- 4-H Youth County Council (monthly)
- 4-H Club Meetings (10 clubs meeting monthly)
- Annual 4-H Workshop and Demonstration Event
- 4-H Shooting Sports

**NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION SERVICE**

The Natural Resources and Conservation Service, formerly known as Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District, was voted in by Hardee County as authorized by Chapter 617.05, Florida Statutes. The Service was organized in 1944 as a Governmental subdivision of the State of Florida, to allow local Districts to develop and carry out a program of conservation for Florida's soil and water resources. The District provides assistance to government and private landowners on environmental subjects such as wetlands, endangered and threatened species, nutrient and pest management, soils, and technical help in managing the natural sources.

Natural Resources Conservation Service has an arrangement with the Hardee County School Board whereby the County makes a donation of \$2500 to the School which in turn provides a student who works in conjunction with their school duties.

A close working relationship exists between the district and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Mission Statement

The mission of the National Resources Conservation Service is to provide local leadership, administrative programs to help citizens conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment.

Activities and Accomplishments

In the past year (2000-01) the Conservation Service acted as a sales agency for Hardee County Plat Books and survey flags, with the proceeds used to provide educational programs for students of the county. The department hosted the Tri-County Land Judging Contest with Charlotte, DeSoto and Hardee counties, which was held at the Outdoor Classroom, with FFA and 4H teams

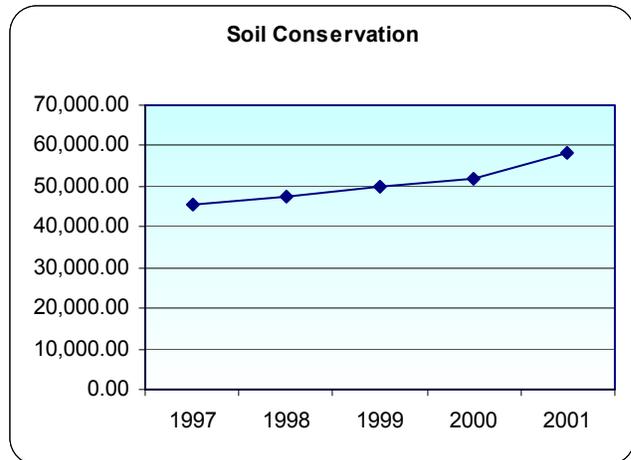
represented in the contest. NRCS also assisted the 4-H and FFA County Envirothon for Hardee County, and provided assistance to the Regional Contest.



We assisted approximately 242 customers, with 178 acres planned to resource management system, 145 acres planned to cultivated cropland, 2,714 acres applied to resource management system, and 1,910 acres applied to grazing land. Other conservation treatments were irrigation management 2,652 acres, nutrient management 1,820 acres, prescribed grazing 3,603 acres, wildlife habitat management 1,095 acres, field borders 53,287 feet and herbaceous wind barriers 128,900 feet.

Financial assistance provided to local farmers for conservation treatment by the USDA was \$75,286.00

The Hardee County NRCS will continue to serve the landowners, government, and educational bodies of Hardee County with any natural resource problems that come



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	40,266	42,389	44,984	47,303	52,650.33	56,086.00
Operating	5,102	5,335	4,833	4,811	5,375.24	5,525.00
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0	1,500.00
TOTAL	\$45,368	\$47,724	\$49,817	\$52,114	\$58,025.57	\$ 63,111.00



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Engineering Department was created in 1998 for the purpose of alleviating excessive expenses incurred relating to engineering, design and permitting. This department is responsible for the engineering and design of roads, bridges and new facilities. This department is also responsible for providing technical support to other departments including Road and Bridge, Building and Zoning, Solid Waste, Mining, and Building and Grounds.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Engineering Department is to provide technical support to other County departments, to ensure the County's infrastructure is safe and effective, and to ensure the manner of growth and land use in the County is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners.

Activities And Accomplishments:

During the past year, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) created four new Director positions to serve as an additional level of management between the County Manager and the various County Departments. The County Engineer was subsequently appointed as the Director of Public Works. During Fiscal Year 2000/2001 (FY 00/01), in addition to managing the Engineering Department, the County Engineer/Director of Public Works was responsible for the oversight of nine other Departments including Road and Bridge, Public Works Shop, Buildings and Grounds, Parks and

Recreation, Landfill, Recycling, Animal Control, Veterans Affairs, and Enhanced 911. Though the duties and responsibilities of the County Engineer has been expanded, this report will focus on the activities and accomplishments specific to the Engineering Department. The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Engineering Department during the 2000/2001 fiscal year.

Under the current departmental organization of the County, the primary role of the Engineering Department is to provide technical support to certain other departments within the County in order to ensure the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners are carried out and that the health, safety and welfare of the public is protected.

One responsibility that is specific to the Engineering Department is the processing of petitions for road closure. During FY 00/01, Coker Road, R. Davis Road, Farwell Road, a portion Stewart Street in the Town of Ft. Green, as well as Baker Avenue, a portion of Grove Street, and a portion of Orange Place within the Subdivision of Moonlight Park. Of course, the process of road closings is an ongoing one and several other roads will be closed in the upcoming year.

The Engineering Department is also responsible for ensuring the County is in compliance with State and Federal environmental regulations which include condition compliance on existing permits held by the County. For example, in FY 00/01, the Engineering Department performed inspections and completed certifications of the stormwater management systems for the new Animal Refuge and the Health Department.

Other activities during the FY 00/01 include continued participation in the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program as a member of the Management Committee. The coordination and construction of the Gulfstream natural gas pipeline was also a focus during this time and the County Engineer was involved in planning and advisory meetings, permitting and construction coordination.

As mentioned above, the primary role of the

Engineering Department is to provide technical support to other County departments. Some of the activities and accomplishments during the FY 00/01 were done in support of other departments and are listed as follows.

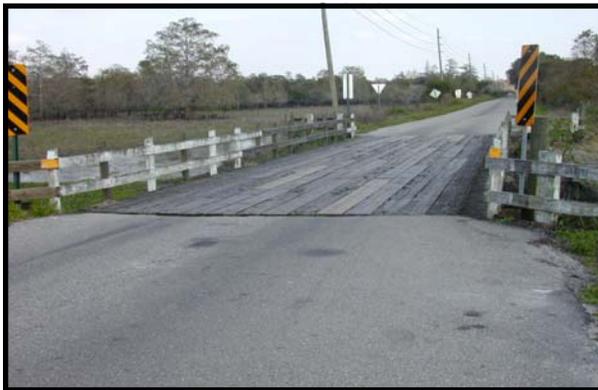
During FY's 99/00 and 00/01, the secretary position for the Engineering Department was shared with four other departments, Mining, GIS, Enhanced 911 and Veterans. This position is now funded entirely under the Engineering Department.



Kelly Roberts Road

Road and Bridge Department

More of the Engineering Department's time during the FY 00/01 was devoted to the support of Road and Bridge projects than to any other department. The following are details of the Engineering Departments' activities in support of the Road and Bridge Department during FY 00/01.



Paving Projects

It was another busy year for paving projects. Before a road is paved it must be evaluated for right-of-way requirements, drainage needs, sight-distance, and other design factors. Once these factors have been evaluated and a design for the road is complete, then the necessary environmental permits or permit exemptions must be obtained. The following is a list of paving (or resurfacing) projects at some stage of completion during the FY 00/01.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Phase</u>
Clifton Bryan Road	- Construction Complete
Kelly Roberts Road	- Construction Complete
Platt Road	- Construction Complete
Limestone Streets	- Construction Complete
West Broward	- Construction Complete
Beechwood	- Construction Complete
Deer Run Subdivision Streets	- Construction Complete
Tom Bryan Road	- Construction Complete
Hammock Estates	- Construction Complete
South Barlow Road	- R.O.W. Acquisition and Permitting Complete
Sasser Road	- Survey Complete
Moffitt Road	- Survey Complete
Dallas McClelland Road	- Survey and R.O.W. Acquisition Complete
Old Town Creek Road	- Survey Complete
Engineering Parking Addition	- Design Complete
Public Works Parking Lot	- Design Complete

Maintenance Projects	
<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Phase</u>
Airport Road Guardrail Improvements Lost Acres Drive Mott Road	-Construction Complete -Culvert Design Complete -Culvert Design Complete
<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Phase</u>
Ollie Roberts Road Bridge Steve Roberts Special Bridges	-Design Underway (FDOT) -Design 90% Complete Permitting Underway
Old Town Creek Road Bridges	-Design - Build Contract Awarded, Const. to Begin 1-21-02
Parnell Road Bridge	-Survey and Geotechnical Report Complete
Ten Mile Grade Bridges	-Design 90% Complete Permitting Underway
Kelly Roberts Road Bridge	-Design Underway

The Engineering Department also provided support to other County departments, specifically:

Building/Zoning:

The Engineering Department regularly assists in the review of subdivision plats, site plan review, zoning modifications, and etc. A significant project over the past year has been the new Wal-Mart Development at the corner of Highway 17 and REA Road. This project involved a zoning modification, a minor subdivision plat, a very complex site plan review, and roadway improvements on REA Road including a new traffic signal which is now maintained by the County.

Landfill:

The Engineering Department provides periodical technical and regulatory support for the Solid Waste Department.

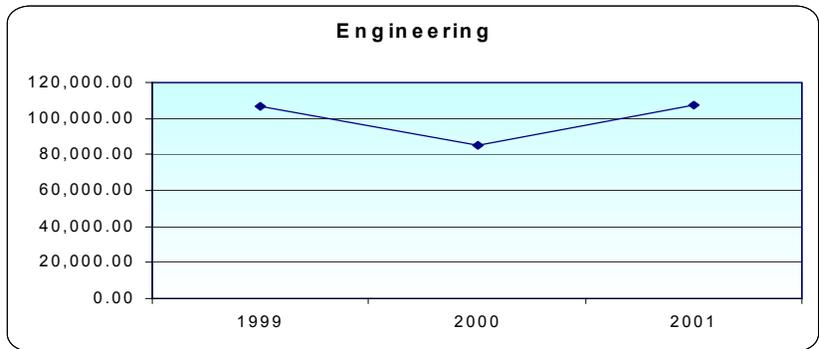
Buildings and Grounds:

The Engineering Department routinely provides technical assistance on projects and activities being managed by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Examples from FY 00/01 include drainage improvements at the Animal Refuge as well as technical and administrative assistance on the Courthouse Renovation Project.

Goals and Objectives:

Significant things were accomplished last year in Hardee County, much of which is the foundation of improvements that will be realized during the coming year. The Engineering Department's goal is, and will continue to be, to ensure the County's infrastructure is safe and effective and to ensure the manner of growth and land use in the County is consistent with goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners.

Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	80,156	66,154	89,985.83	106,796
Operating	12,985	11,399	11,956.76	30,721
Capital Outlay	13,577	7,437	5,675.00	5,500
TOTAL	106,718	84,990	107,617.59	143,017



PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

The primary role of the Purchasing Department is to serve all departments under the Board of County Commissioners, ensuring that proper purchasing procedures are followed according to County and State laws. A current vendor file is maintained, deleting those vendors who do not respond or deliver as requested. There are currently over 3000 items in inventory in the amount of \$276,294.07 that are received and issued from the stockroom. Goods and services are located, ordered, received and issued to other departments as needed. Additionally, the Accounting Department is informed when a purchase order is complete and invoices are ready for payment.

The Purchasing Department maintains a current list of all buildings and properties owned by Hardee County. Capital improvements for all departments under the Board of County Commissioners are purchased and tracked, including issuing Invitations to Bid, Request for Proposals, issuance of purchase orders and all pertinent paper work. This is in addition to the day-to-day purchases for the different departments.

There are currently four (4) employees in this department; Purchasing Agent, Assistant Purchasing Agent, Accounting Clerk, and Stockroom Clerk.



Stockroom Clerk Joan Waldron, 2001 Employee of the Year with County Commissioner Bill Lambert

In FY 00/01 we purchased all new furniture for the purchasing office. We started posting Invitations to Bid and Requests for Proposals on the internet on our web site along with awards.

In FY 01/02 we plan to renovate the purchasing office and install the new furniture. We are in the process of linking our internet



	FY 97/98		FY 98/99		FY 99/00		FY 00/01	
	TOTAL	AVG	TOTAL	AVG	TOTAL	AVG	TOTAL	AVG
P.O.'s	3046	254	3217	268	3135	261	3385	282
REQ	3291	274	3516	293	3916	326	4734	394
INV	11315	943	11502	959	13267	1106	12902	1075

Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	103959.64	108795.30	115464.25	122084.77	128,319.00
Operating	142946.90	14294.06	22886.87	17,077.68	22,050.00
Capital Outlay	4398.91	2365.00	8560.30	14,689.82	1,800.00
TOTAL	121305.45	125454.36	146911.42	153,852.27	152,169.00

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

The Hardee County Public Library was created by the adoption of resolution 84-21 in September 1984 to be governed by the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners. The county signed an inter-local agreement to join the Heartland Library Cooperative on October 1, 1997. The State Library entered into a Grant Agreement with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners on September 8, 1998 to expand the Library from 5,800 square feet to 13,200 square feet. Expansion was completed January 2000. The State Library of Florida awards State Aid to Libraries funding to Hardee County, including operating grants and equalization grants to supplement local funds, based on the level of effort expended by Hardee County.

Mission Statement

The mission of the library is to provide quality customer service to the public; including providing increased access to information, collection development and resource sharing.

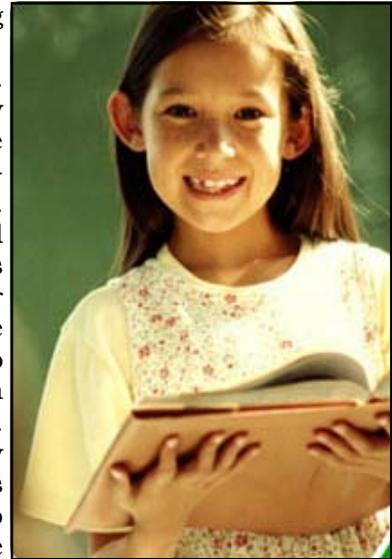
Activities and Accomplishments

Two previous grants from State Library Grant funds were awarded for another year to benefit our patrons both young and old. Born-to-Read continues to educate new parents about library resources and the advantages of reading to their children. With Pioneer Medical Center as our health partner, the program is providing health education to teen parenting classes at the high school. Graying-of-the-Net continues to provide technology training to older adults in our computer Learning Center.

The Go Figure! Traveling Exhibit sponsored by the American Library Association, 3M and Cargill was an overwhelming success. Hardee County Public Library was selected as one of 75 libraries in the United States to receive the interactive exhibit emphasizing the significance of mathematics and books in the lives of young children. From August 23-October 4, more than 1500 Hardee County pre-school through second graders were bused to the Library with their teachers to participate in the

exhibit and the accompanying activities held by Library staff. Books relating to mathematics were available on display as well as bibliographies of books available in our database for parents and caregivers. For many children this was the first time they had ever been in the Library.

Children's programming is a priority of library staff. Weekly story hours are held for pre-schoolers. Home-school youngsters and their parents are encouraged to participate in library events. Elementary school classes continue to visit the library. The



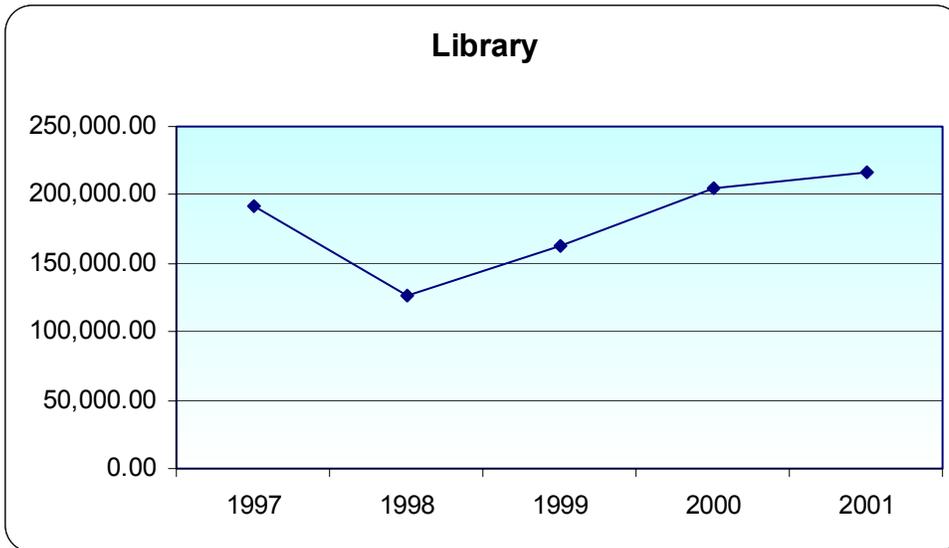
The State Library encourages outreach services, thus our Library staff visits several day cares and after school locations presenting programs and reading to children. The summer Florida Library Youth Program included the annual magic show, interactive story presentations by library staff, and visits by community guests and Ronald McDonald.

The library is reaching county residents through Linger at the Library, a monthly column for the Herald Advocate that provides information about library functions, materials and services. The migration to Polaris, an updated circulation program, allows county residents to view our database, review their accounts and renew materials from home computers through the web site www.heartlineweb.org.

The goal of the Library is to continue to provide quality service to county residents and to maintain the integrity of the current collection with current and relevant material.

Year End Statistics

Collection	Circulation	Patrons	Patron Visits
41,127	47,985	7,969	66,652



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	101,071.89	64,981.41	94,310.00	108,896.79	145,686.09	158,482
Operating	35,872.13	18,468.73	18,896.02	33,524.84	22,417.69	26,010
Capital Outlay	55,074.03	43,662.97	49,232.46	62,402.98	48,115.00	60,800
TOTAL	192,018.05	127,113.11	162,438.12	204,824.61	216,218.78	245,292

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES

Hardee County Department of Animal Services was formed in 1995 by the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners to provide the services of the humane capture, impoundment and, if necessary, euthanasia of unwanted or stray domestic cats and dogs.

Strict state and local polices and laws must be followed in this process. Major components consist of educating the public of policies and regulations, investigative work, strict record keeping procedures, the humane capture and impoundment of animals, adoption promotions, chemical capture, euthanasia procedures. It is also extremely vital that this department maintain excellent public relations and good working relationships with local veterinarians, Sheriff's Department and Zoning Department.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Animal Services Department is to provide Hardee County with the humane capture and impoundment of unwanted or nuisance domestic dogs and cats through the legal procedures listed in both State and Local laws.

Activities and Accomplishments

Animal Services has achieved many accomplishments this past year. Discussion and meetings with all local veterinarians have accomplished full participation of a low cost spay and neuter program for animals adopted from our kennel and the donations of various medications needed for the animals in the kennel.

In addition, we agreed to participate in a rescue program know as Wyatt's Ruff Rescue, which has gotten notoriety from several news agencies, including the Herald Advocate, Tampa Tribune and the Insider.



Also, the Herald Advocate has allowed us to place a promotional "Pet of the Week" Ad in their weekly paper. Through hard work and dedication, the employees of Animal Services and the participating agencies listed above have increased the adoption rate at our kennel 289% from the previous year. Respectively, the revenues generated by the department have increased 440%, for a total of \$8,121.15.

Animal Services has greatly improved office practices and tracking procedures this past year, achieving standards acceptable to the state and admired by other small counties. The employees have also worked to greatly improve the standards of kennel procedures and record keeping.

We have worked diligently to strengthen a working relationship with the Sheriffs Department and to improve procedures and techniques used in the investigations and prosecution of criminal offenders in cases involving domestic dogs and cats.

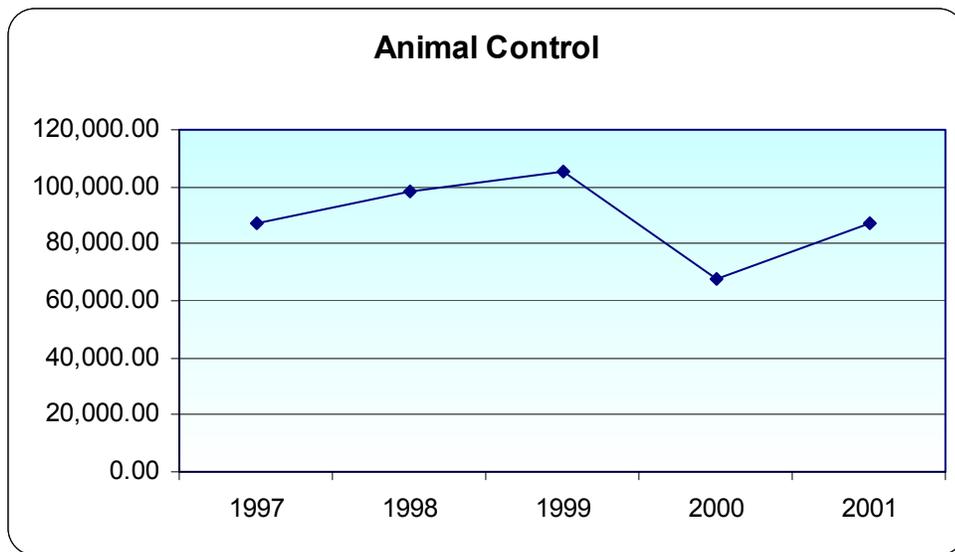
We have further assisted the Zoning Department in enforcing a zoning ordinance involving stray chickens. This program has been very costly (an estimated \$35.00 per chicken); however, it has resulted in capture of 130 chickens to date.

Goals and Objectives

Our goals and objectives include that we continue to strengthen relationships with assisting agencies and that we continue to improve our standards through educational courses available through the Florida Animal Control Association and other agencies.



Animal Services hopes to further improve the standards of the kennel by constructing outside dog areas for the purpose of exercising the animals and promoting good health. These areas will also allow prospective adopters a safe area to interact with a potential pet, thus promoting adoptions. Animal Services has also planned to purchase a 4-wheel drive field truck to replace the current 1992 truck.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	46,091.79	52,765.88	57,893.95	51,662.79	60,641.59	86,298.00
Operating	24,636.91	24,531.38	19,315.29	15,403.86	23,929.17	32,900.00
Capital Outlay	16,304.98	24,152.17	27,934.44	864.00	2,497.23	26,000.00
TOTAL	87,033.68	98,449.43	105,143.68	67,930.65	87,067.99	145,198.00

MINING DEPARTMENT

Phosphate mining is a major industry in Hardee County, contributing significantly to the tax yield and local economy. This office was staffed in June, 1999 to ensure that phosphate mining activities in Hardee County are conducted within the guidelines set forth in County Ordinance 1999-02, as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 20, 1999. This office reports to the office of Planning and Development.

Mission Statement

It is the responsibility of this office to enforce the Hardee County Mining Regulations in order to protect the public health, safety and general welfare; to ensure the orderly development of mineral resources in a manner compatible with all development of the County as set out in the Hardee County Comprehensive Plan to ensure that mined or excavated land can be put to some worthwhile use after the mining or earth moving operation is completed and to establish procedures: a) for monitoring the effects on the environment caused by mining activities, b) to ensure the timely reporting of the results of monitoring of mining, c) for



d) making any revisions to existing plans relating to mining necessary to ensure the use of best management practices and developing technology for the control of pollution and other adverse impacts of such activities, d) to ensure reclamation of the affected areas, e) to ensure that it is in the public interest of the citizens of Hardee County to allow specific mining activity.

Activities and Accomplishments

The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Mining Department for the 2000/2001 fiscal year (FY 00/01). A significant amount of time and effort has gone into the "Team Permitting" process for two future phosphate mines in the County, as well as a gas pipeline company.

IMC Phosphates and Farmland-Hydro have each entered into the "sufficiency" Phase of the permitting process, during which the regulatory agencies review the data submitted by the applicants and determine if the information is sufficient enough to deem the applications "complete". IMC Phosphates has entered into their second round of sufficiency questions, while Farmland-Hydro is in their first round.

The Department is also participating in the ongoing investigation regarding the feasibility of creating a Water Supply Authority (WSA) with Highlands and Polk Counties, which has involved several meetings with Polk County officials and the SWFWMD Governing and Basin Boards. Other activities have involved the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA), the Charlotte Harbor Estuary Committee.

Continued and ongoing involvement with IMC Phosphates, Inc. to develop success criteria for xeric oak restoration per Hardee County Development Order requirements. Workshops have been conducted to address and express the desire of the County for the creation of lakes and reservoirs as a post mining land use. The Department also has an active role in the development of the Hardee Lakes Park, County Industrial Park, Megaport, and the Peace River Environmental Educational Network (PREEN) in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (BMR) and the Fazzine Environmental Center.

Other activities included the initial collections and development of A GIS

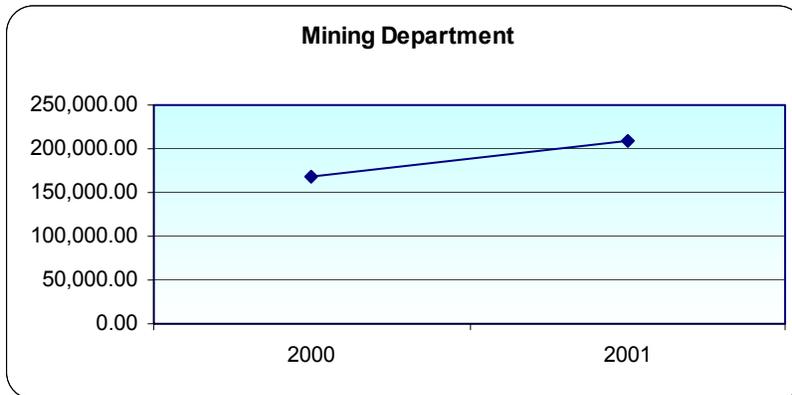
and County Geologic Map, investigation and mediation of water well complaints and participation in the Florida Lake Management Society

The Department has also participated in the 16th annual Phosphate conference, water resources conferences, GIS software training, land regulation education and environmental permitting education courses and seminars.

Goals and Objectives

Among the goals and objectives of the Mining Department will be to more effectively monitor and report mining activities and water well complaints within the County, as well as to represent the County in water related Issues. Other goals are to develop a countywide map illustrating all the mine lands in a GIS database for more effective and efficient reporting and planning. Other goals are to staff additional personnel to assist in monitoring and reporting activities, and to use the additional staff and data to provide the Planning and Development

Department and the BOCC value added information for it's



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	80,972.64	79,335.49	107,431
Operating	58,713.30	126,338.46	216,299
Capital Outlay	28,034.37	2,716.95	14,200
TOTAL	167,720.31	208,390.90	337,930



ENHANCED 9-1-1 DEPARTMENT

Fully enhanced 9-1-1 systems provided by the local regulated telephone companies provide three features which have proven to be of great value in reducing response time for emergency calls.

Mission Statement

The mission of the enhanced 911 and Addressing Department of Hardee County is to foster the technological advancement, availability and implementation of communications and addressing to help reduce the time it takes a person to reach the appropriate safety agency. In any emergency situation, whether it's police, fire, or medical, those seconds count.

Goals and Objectives

In carrying out our mission, Hardee County's Enhanced 911 Department promotes research, planning, training and education. The protection of human life, the preservation of property, and the maintenance of general community security are among this department's objectives.

Activities and Accomplishments

A. Selective Routing: Selective Routing has been purposely listed first because it is considered to be the most important feature of a fully enhanced system. Calls are routed directly to a 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Each telephone main station in the county is electronically tagged with an Emergency Service Number (ESN). Each ESN defines for that particular main station the following:

1. The responsible law enforcement agency.
2. The responsible fire department.
3. The responsible EMS rescue agency.

No matter how complicated a county is configured; the ESN numbers generally enable the selective routing computer to direct a call to the right place.

B. Automatic Number Identification (ANI): The ANI signal is received with the call and the callers telephone number is displayed immediately.

C. Automatic Location Identification (ALI): ALI supplies the PSAP with the following:

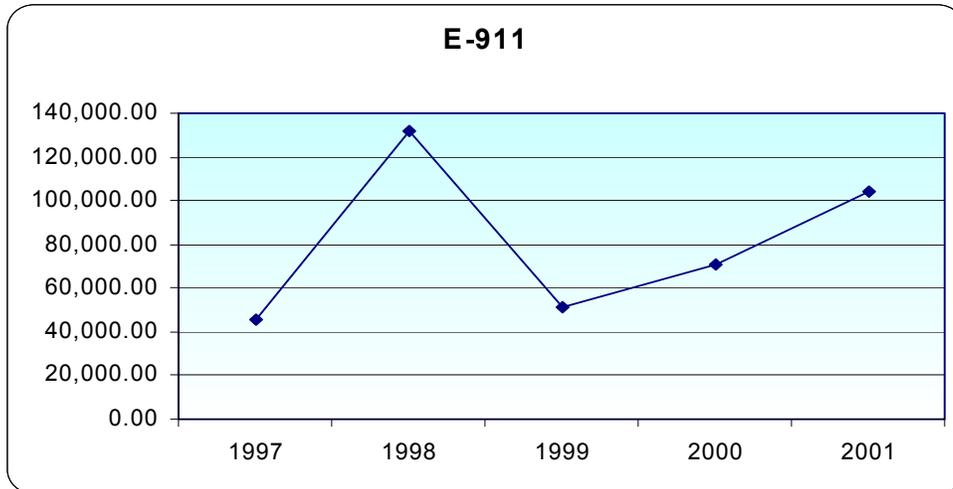
1. Telephone Subscriber's name
2. Telephone Subscriber's address; other location information
3. Law Enforcement Agency
4. Fire Department
5. EMS Rescue Agency

The Enhanced 9-1-1 Coordinator maintains the addressing database and the county is the addressing authority for all addresses within Hardee County. All 911 calls received by the PSAP are reviewed for any “record not found” (RNF). This last fiscal year we are proud to report that not one RNF was received.

Verification of the address from the caller is also checked when 911 calls are received. Throughout fiscal year 2001 a total of twelve (12) addresses were incorrect per information provided by the caller. This information is then verified by the coordinator and if correction is required a daily service order referral is immediately prepared and sent to Sprint to update their files with the correct address.

STATISTICS - FISCAL YEAR 2001

1. Assigned 142 new addresses.
2. Prepared 525 documents/memos/notices to various agencies that need the address updates for their files.
3. Phone calls in/out totaled 821.
4. Attended four (4) 911 coordinators database meetings.
5. Attended APCO/NENA spring and fall conferences.
6. Average monthly active land lines (phone) total 12,032
7. Reviewed 8,785 PSAP 911 calls.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	21,035.78	14,373.60	9,721.40	8,682.59	41,776.56	51,825.00
Operating	3,934.55	16,764.82	41,868.34	51,003.35	59,123.17	61,200.00
Capital Outlay	20,912.70	100,387.00	0	10,860.25	3,324.78	16,463.00
TOTAL	45,883.03	131,525.42	51,589.74	70,546.19	104,224.51	129,488.00



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This office maintains all the emergency plans for the county and coordinates with all concerned agencies within the county, with the State Division of Emergency Management (DEM), other State and Federal agencies. This office responds to all Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) spills, performs Haz-Mat inspections of the SARA III facilities in the county. This office maintains a register for Special Needs People as well as all Critical Facilities Inventory. This office tracks all tropical storms and hurricanes also keeps the appropriate officials and the public alerted to severe weather conditions affecting Hardee County. This office provides public awareness, training, presentations and education for Disaster Preparedness and Severe Weather Survival.

Mission

The mission of Emergency Management is to reduce the vulnerability of people and communities of Hardee County, to prevent loss of life, injury or damage and loss of property resulting from natural, technological, and man-made emergencies and to reduce the vulnerability of the infrastructure of the county and its cities.

Activities and Accomplishments

Florida Emergency Management agencies monitored 17 potential threats to the coastal waters of our nation. On three occasions Hardee County was in present danger and one tropical storm "Gabrielle" brought Hardee County millions of dollars in damage due to severe flooding. For the first time flash flooding occurred, search and rescue was initiated by use of airboats, and four families were rescued with pets. No injuries or fatalities were sustained. Hardee County received a Presidential declaration for public assistance.

Second floor of the Emergency Operation Center, where operations are performed, is fit for hardware installation, desk, chairs, communication equipment. Handicap access has also been completed. Bathing and sleeping quarters project is still pending.

The rising number of assisted living facilities in Hardee County is increasing rapidly and The Emergency Management Department has reviewed and approved plans for all. ALF Management was given instruction on how to simplify the plan review, which in return quickens the process.

Dissemination of public awareness issues and concerns to the general public were steady throughout the year. The following presentations were provided in both English and Spanish; press releases, fire extinguisher questions and answers, home fire safety, fire proofing your home for the holidays, preparations for a wildfire, flood preparations (protection), planning for people with special needs, thunderstorm and lightning preparedness, hurricane preparedness, food in an emergency check list, (how to conduct a household inventory), water in an emergency, summer heat wave, cold weather precautions, hurricane preparedness, food in an emergency check list, (how to conduct a household inventory), water in an emer-

gency, summer heat wave, cold weather precautions to take, prevention of mosquito bites and mosquito-borne illness, coordinated conference calls to all counties on foot and mouth disease. Awareness of issues related to terrorism were addressed, including procedures to identify suspicious unopened letters and package guidelines.

This department attended the annual health fair at the Civic Center, and set up a display booth with informational literature in traffic safety, 911 information, and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.

Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee donated Hardee County Emergency Management its first satellite feed weather station (satellite and PC). Installation was performed by Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and coordinated by Jack Belich – vice president of St. Pete Times.

As part of the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), Emergency Management received 150 helmets for the Bicycle Program, where bicycles are refurbished by the inmates at Hardee County Correctional Institute, and delivered to low income families for Christmas (in addition to providing safety literature and helmets).

When Florida Gas Transmission decided to install gas lines in Hardee County, Emergency Management decided to request training for fire personnel and equipment to detect gas leaks. All fire departments were trained, including Public Works and Florida Highway Patrol. Detection equipment for gas leaks was donated to County Fire Rescue.

Operation Broken School was an exercise of tremendous size with the participation of five counties. The elements of weapons of mass destruction were tested. Over 70 participants from law enforcement (Sheriff, city, FDLE, FBI), Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, fire, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Haz-Mat teams (Polk County), Department of Emergency Management (DEM State Level),



hospital staff, universal studios make-up artist, school officials, Local Emergency Planning Community (LEPC), and most importantly the 4th Civil Support Team – Georgia National Guard, also the 44th Civil Support Team – Florida National Guard. Ironically, soon after, the National Guard was deployed to New York to assist with the September 11th tragedy. Their prior attendance at this exercise may have been beneficial in their heroic operations for such a horrific incident.

Goals and Objectives

- 1.) Prepare for prompt and efficient response and recovery activities to protect lives and property affected by emergencies.
- 2.) Respond to emergencies using all systems, plans, and resources necessary to preserve and protect the health, safety, and well being of the citizen of Hardee County.
- 3.) Recover from emergencies by the rapid and orderly implementation of restoration and rehabilitation programs for the people and property affected from emergencies.
- 4.) Completion of the second phase of the Emergency Operation Center, so that, in conjunction with fire rescue, we can plan and organize a full scale exercise utilizing a functional Emergency Operation Center to its maximum capacity. This scenario would include all emergency support functions outlined in Hardee County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

GIS DEPARTMENT

The Hardee County GIS Department performs several technical functions for the County and in support of other county departments and divisions. Technical services include: (1) maintaining the County road map, land parcel map, and many other graphical layers of land use data and planning information; (2) administration of the County's computers and computer network, including over 50 desktop computers, a web server, email server, database server, web application (Cold Fusion) server, and numerous hardware and network devices, and; (3) site evaluations and special professional services in support of new development and industry. The Department also supports the Board of County Commissioners by representing the County concerning planning issues, especially water-related issues, and large-scale land development permitting, such as phosphate mining.



Activities and Accomplishments

In addition to regular computer mapping tasks and responsibilities, the GIS Department has designed and completed several special projects. These projects have been completed in-house, with very little need for external



expertise. The following accomplishments, including additional major projects and/or tasks, were completed during Fiscal Year 2001:

PLANNING: Participated in, and represented the County concerning water-related issues involving the Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority (PRMWSA), Southwest Florida Water Management District (Peace River Basin Board) SWFWMD; assisted with IMC xeric uplands demonstration project; provided presentations on water policy, GIS site planning for moderately low income housing and community college sitting to various boards and groups including, but not limited to, the Board of County Commissioners; developed goals, objectives and policies for Hardee County's comprehensive plan "Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR).

COMPUTER: Completed two phases of the County's computer Local Area Network (LAN), and provided high-speed Internet access, email, and other communications resources to additional

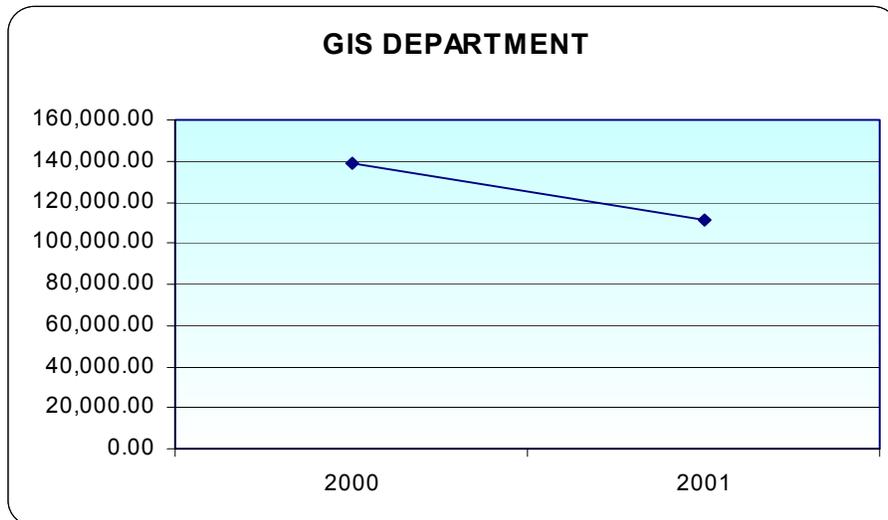


county staff; set up Microsoft SQL Server and converted Hardee County Property Appraiser's database to that format; programmed county web site to include online agendas for the Board of County Commissioners and Zoning and Planning Board; responded to a large number of computer problem calls; implemented numerous network connections and various

printer, scanner, and software configurations; planned a wireless computer network to be constructed in 2001/2001 for the purpose of connecting remote county offices to the LAN.

FINANCIAL: Applied for two grants, received one: NOAA Grant in amount of \$37,216.

ORGANIZATIONAL: Assumed position as Director Planning & Development, and organized the management of Building and Zoning Department, Extension Services, Mining Department and GIS Department; hired and outfitted a new GIS Coordinator and mapping office.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	0	0	62,680.25	65,047	403,582
Operating	0	0	27,536.62	39,943	117,182
Capital Outlay	0	0	49,054.61	6,167	62,060
TOTAL	0	0	139,271.48	111,157	582,824

MISCELLANEOUS

Total expenses in the Miscellaneous Budget during fiscal year 2000/2001 were \$542,830. This budget includes expenses related to Auditing, Insurances, Medical Examiner (autopsy and pathology costs), FHREDI, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Wauchula, County Recreational Complex, CHNEP, Housing Authority, EPCA Program, City of Wauchula CRA, Independence Day Celebration, etc.



Accomplishments

In addition to the routine projects and expenses relating to the Miscellaneous Budget, this year the Board of County Commissioners was successful in securing grant funding in the amount of \$85,000 through the State of Florida for the Hardee County Housing Authority. These funds were secured for the purchase of land located on North Martin Luther King Avenue for the development of a fifty-two unit Farm Worker Housing Complex. In addition to the funds received for the purchase of the land, the Housing Authority will be receiving \$2,700,000 from USDA Rural Development and \$924,000 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for the construction of the complex. Construction for this project is scheduled to begin in the middle of May 2002 and will be available for occupancy in May of 2003. In addition to funds secured for construction, USDA Rural Development has awarded funding for rental assistance in the amount of \$360,000 over a five year period. The intent of this project is to provide a safe and healthy living environment for farm workers for a period of one to two years or until they are able to gain financial stability to establish a permanent residence.

HUMAN SERVICES

Services in this budget are all under the umbrella of Health and Social Services. Contributions to the organizations enable them to apply for grants which is a substantial return on the dollar. Some costs are mandated to be paid by Statute, others can be funded depending on the level of service the Commission wishes to provide.

Total expenses in this budget during fiscal year 2000/2001 were \$800,723.00. Organizations which receive funding under the Human Services budget include: County Public Health Unit, Indigent Health Care (HCRA) - mandated by the state to budget \$4 per capita, Medicaid Matching for Nursing Home and Hospital, Personal Development, HOPE, Resthaven, Florida Hospital, Indigent Burials, Community Services Block Grants for Hope and RCMA, Tri-County Addictions and Transportation for Disadvantaged - Planning and Trips.

Accomplishments

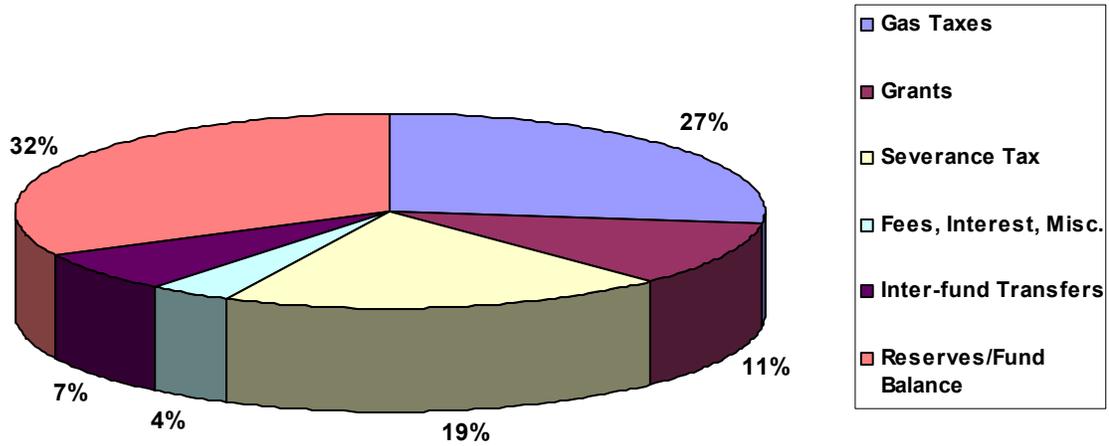
This year Hardee County met its final contractual obligation to Florida Hospital in the amount of \$250,000.00. Two years ago, the County offered Florida Hospital financial assistance to overcome severe financial deficits due to reductions in Medicaid reimbursements. Florida Hospital received \$250,000 in fiscal year 1999 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2000. Following the final contribution to Florida Hospital, representatives approached the Board with a positive report on their financial position and presented a check in the amount of \$189,000 for partial reimbursement for the expenses incurred. Plans are currently underway for renovations to the hospital with a focus on the expansion and revamping of the emergency room. Last year over 12,000 patients received emergency room care. The intention of the hospital is to make renovations that will better accommodate the needs of the citizens of Hardee County.



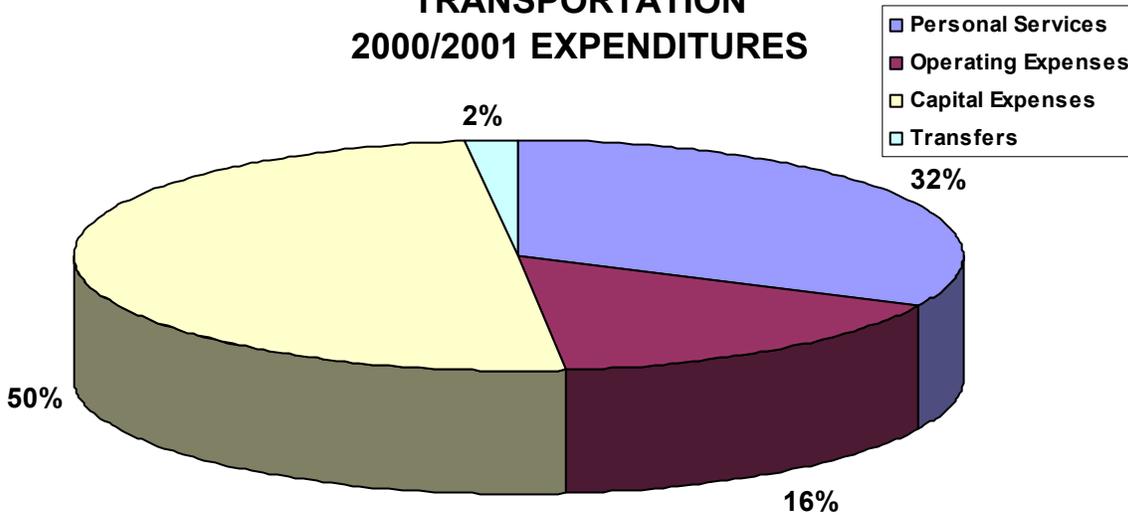
Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 00/01
TOTAL	\$875,601	\$901,619	\$1,544,508	\$1,656,659	\$1,373,553.13	\$1,279,249



TRANSPORTATION TRUST 2000/2001 REVENUES



TRANSPORTATION 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues		Expenditures	
Gas Taxes	1,852,125	Personal Services	1,689,133
Grants	742,754	Operating Expenses	844,239
Severance Tax	1,338,077	Capital Expenses	2,607,521
Fees, Interest, Misc.	242,102	Transfers	101,168
Inter-fund Transfers	464,732		\$ 5,242,061.67
Reserves/Fund Balance	2,234,883		
	\$ 6,874,674.81		

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

The Equipment Maintenance (shop's) main purpose is to provide safe and dependable equipment for the use of the County and it's employees. There are currently 287 vehicles owned, operated and maintained by the County. This equipment is to be maintained in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Equipment Maintenance Shop is to ensure that all work activities and programs of the maintenance division are efficiently coordinated with other County work programs and projects.

Activities and Accomplishments

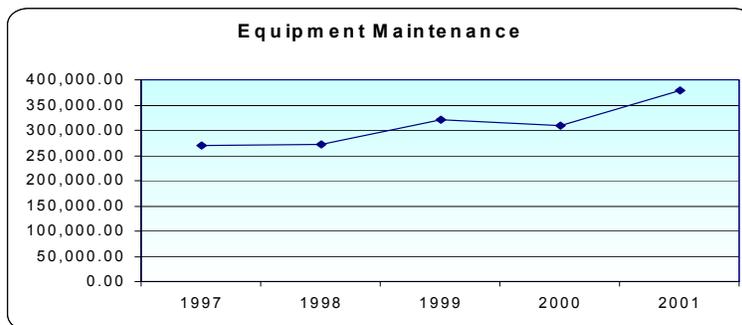
The Maintenance Division is responsible for all maintenance activities under the Board of County Commissioners and the Sheriff's office. The Maintenance Department consists of nine (9) employees. In addition to routine maintenance activities, we reconstruct, engineer and modify equipment for County use. Maintenance also does itemized billing and provides technical assistances to all departments as requested. All activities are recorded daily into a dossier fleet management system. The system provides print of entry for all service work on vehicles entering or exiting the shop.

It also updates scheduled and episodic maintenance computer records. This year we switched from paper system to a paperless system. Staff training this year will be welding, plasma cutting, aluminum welding, ABS brakes, new multiplexed electrical systems, and fuel injection system (Ford power stroke diesel).

Goals and Objectives

Our goal is to increase the training and knowledge of our staff so that the highest level of efficiency and technical skill can be achieved.

Our mechanics have been trained in electronic Engines, Fleet Management Systems, Meritor Wabco ABS Diagnostic, Allison Transmission Diagnostics, Cummins Quick Check Data Reader, Caterpillar electronic Technician, Caterpillar Service Information System, International Master Diagnostics and Detroit Diesel Electron Controls.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	221,267.71	235,202.30	262,727.52	270,943.01	299,413.18	313,544.00
Operating	29,715.28	27,245.74	36,408.91	29,435.97	40,083.13	46,746.00
Capital Outlay	17,998.99	9,518.37	20,766.50	10,002.54	38,641.45	18,500.00
TOTAL	268,981.98	271,966.41	319,902.93	310,381.52	378,137.76	378,790.00

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

The Road & Bridge/Public Works Department is the largest Department within the County, and it is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the county system of roads, bridges and streets. The mileage consists of 271.19 miles of paved roads and 254.28 miles of unpaved roads. The Department handles and issues



permits for telephone, culvert, electrical and private utilities, provides sign, ditches and culvert repair/maintenance.

Mission Statement

The Road and Bridge Department serves to maintain the County's transportation system of roads and bridges, provide a safe system, and protect the investment in that system; to develop and provide high levels of service by planning, scheduling, and controlling work.

Activities and Accomplishments

The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Road and Bridge Department during the 2000/2001 fiscal year. It was a busy year for paving projects. Before a road is paved, it must be evaluated for right-of-way requirements, drainage needs, sight distance, and other design factors. Once these factors have been evaluated and a design for the road is complete, then the necessary environmental permits or permit exemptions must be obtained. The following is a list of right-of-way, new construction, and resurfacing projects the Road and Bridge Department accomplished:

- Acquired 24.458 total acres of Right-of-Way from the following roads; Airport Road, Clifton Bryan Road, Dallas McClellan Road, Kelly Roberts Road, Skipper Road, South Barlow Road and Ten Mile Grade.

The department also completed 13.88 miles of new construction on the following: Limestone Community, Deer Run Subdivision, Hammock Estates, Streets of Bowling Green, Beechwood Rd, West Broward St, Skipper Rd, Platt Rd, Kelly Roberts Rd, Clifton Bryan Rd, & Tom Bryan Rd. There was 19.34 miles of resurfacing roadways on the following roads: Martin Luther King Blvd, Popash Rd, CR 664 West, Boyd Cowart, Merle Langford Rd, & REA Rd.

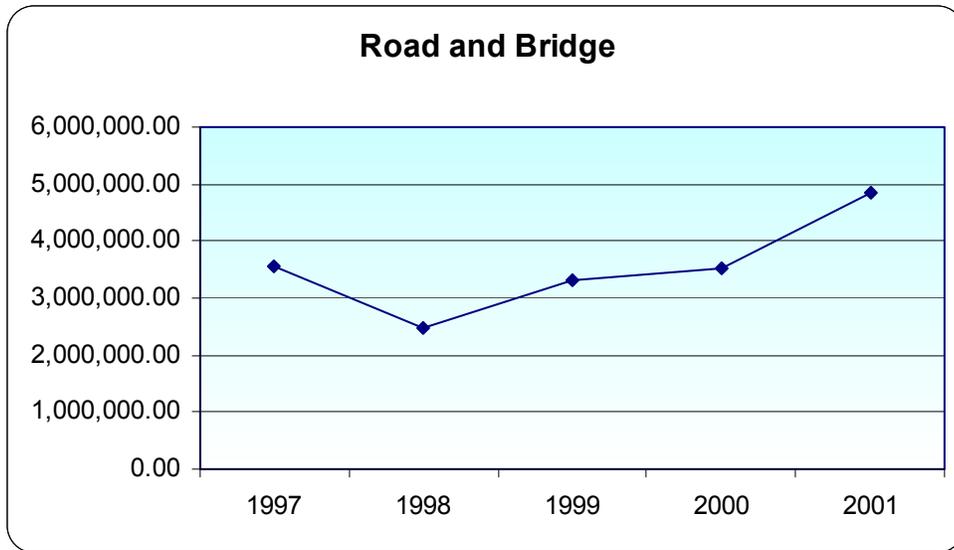


Personnel Summary:	FY 98/99	FY 99/00	FY 00/01	FY 01/02
Full Time Employees	46	47	51	49



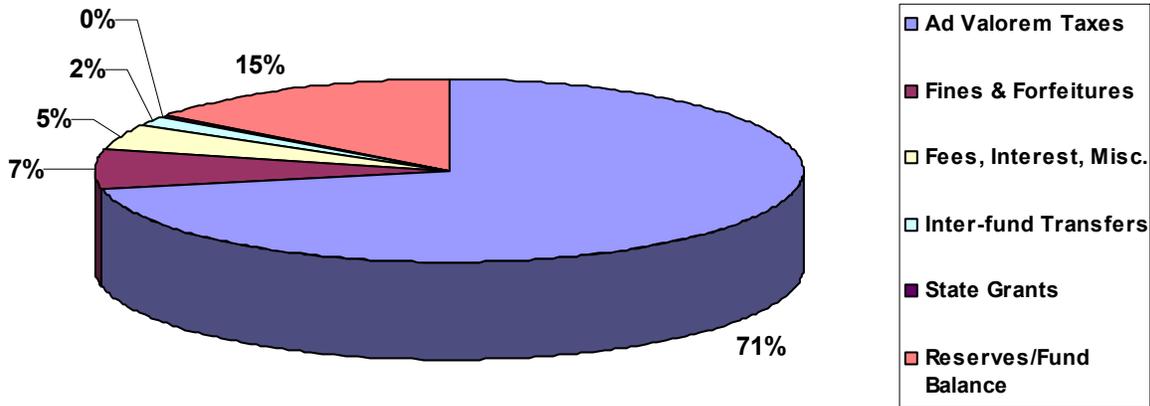
The Road and Bridge Department purchased twelve (12) pieces of new equipment as follows:

- five (5) ea. International Dump Truck
 - one (1) ea. Dodge Ram 150 Pickup Truck
 - one (1) ea. Cat Wheel Loader
 - one (1) ea. New Holland Tractor
 - one (1) ea. 8'x16' Trailer
 - one (1) ea. Replacement Trailer for Eq# 49
 - one (1) ea. Post Driver
 - one (1) ea. Culvert Locator
- The total for all equipment purchased: \$486,665.27

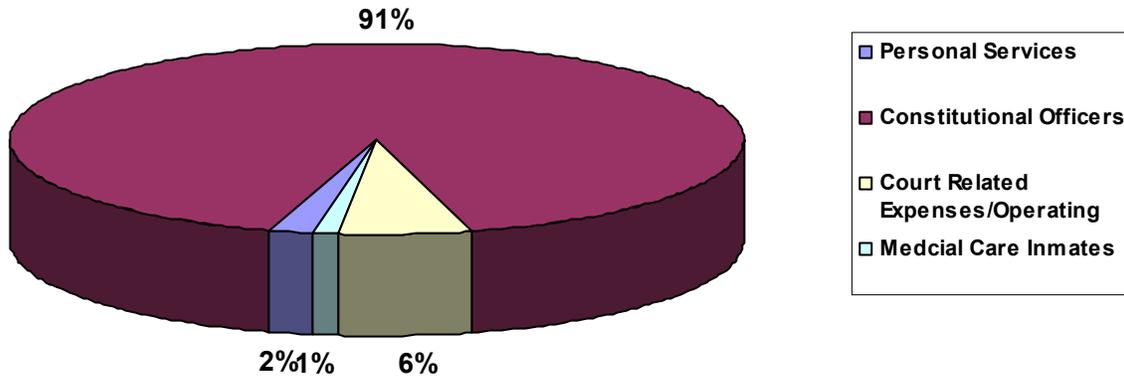


Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	1,067,646.35	1,151,928.03	1,155,889.44	1,226,457.86	1,389,719.91	1,522,393
Operating	802,827.96	1,016,456.20	813,537.05	737,152.92	804,156.35	947,677
Capital Outlay	1,690,782.71	315,895.82	1,327,123.24	1,546,551.20	2,568,879.65	2,071,011
Transfers	0	0	0	30,000.00	101,168.00	370,000
TOTAL	3,561,257.02	2,484,280.05	3,296,549.73	3,540,161.98	4,863,923.91	4,911,081

FINE & FORFEITURE 2000/2001 REVENUES



FINE & FORFEITURE 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues		Expenditures	
Ad Valorem Taxes	4,480,204	Personal Services	108,786
Fines & Forfeitures	426,859	Constitutional Officers	4,929,848
Fees, Interest, Misc.	284,426	Court Related Expenses/Operating	315,325
Inter-fund Transfers	94,397	Medcial Care Inmates	65,151
State Grants	19,397	Total	\$5,419,110.56
Reserves/Fund Balance	921,719		
Total	\$ 6,227,002.28		

FINE AND FORFEITURE FUN



This fund is primarily made up of court system and law enforcement mandates. The commission has little control over the expenditures in this fund. Expenses include costs of operating the Sheriff's Department, Public Defender, State Attorney, Clerk of Courts - County and Circuit, witness fees, Official Court Reporter fees, medical care of prisoners, utilities for jail, repair and maintenance of Sheriff's vehicles, etc.

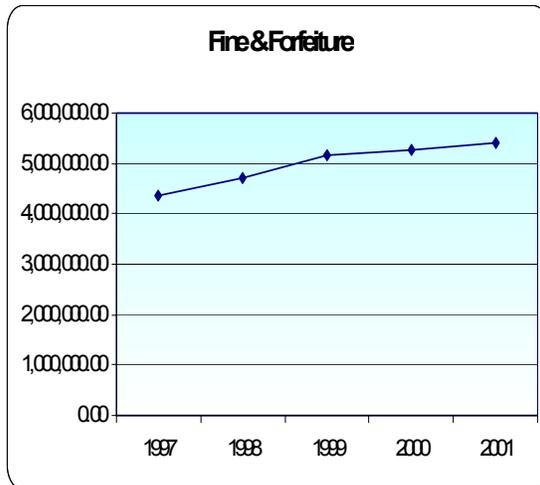
EXPENDITURES	
Clerks Fees & Commissions	167,788
Sheriff 's Expenditures	4,401,221
Medical Care of Prisoners	65,151
Clerk's Circuit Court Exp.	192,839
Clerk's County Court Exp.	168,000
Miscellaneous FF Exp.	52,798
Circuit Criminal Expenses	119,449
Circuit Judge	5,606
State Attorney	5,096
Public Defender	5,223
Guardian Ad Litem	873
County Judge	9,795
County Court Criminal	6,926
County Probation	114,958
Circuit Court Juvenile	103,390
Total	\$ 5,419,113

The Tenth Judicial Circuit determined that a full time resident Circuit Judge was justified for Hardee County and consequently a judge was assigned to represent Hardee County. An office was assigned on the third floor of the Courthouse and a budget was prepared for certain office expenses for the Judge and the Judicial Assistant.

In July of 1998 Judge Susan Roberts replaced Judge Judge Dick Prince as Circuit Judge for Hardee County.

By Florida Statute, the county must also provide office space for the County Judge and the Judicial Assistant. They are both paid by the State.

When the Judicial Assistant is out of the office, the county must pay for someone to substitute in that position. Other expenses include communications, travel, postage and other office operating supplies.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Fine & Forfeiture	\$4,373,409	\$4,715,642	\$5,165,294	\$5,272,385	\$5,419,113	\$6,001,651

Probation/Community Service Department

The Probation/Community Service Department has been in existence since August 1977. The purpose of this department is to monitor and supervise court defendants placed on misdemeanor probation and community service in Hardee County. This department is under the direction of the County Manager, County Finance Director, and County Judge.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Probation/Community Service Department is to provide supervision services to the court system for misdemeanor cases in Hardee County. These services are provided in such a manner as to ensure compliance with court ordered obligations. Services are provided to ensure probationers assistance in living a worthwhile life style, thereby able to stay in society and contribute, without putting extra burden on the jail and welfare system.

Activities and Accomplishments

During the 2000/2001 fiscal year the Probation Office monitored probationers to ensure compliance with court ordered conditions of probation. As part of the supervision, the staff performed background investigations along with a complete criminal history check on each probationer. Also obtained in each file are reports on probationer's offenses from local law enforcement agencies, and complete detailed records are kept on any contact with or pertaining to the probationer.

The probation staff is also responsible for ensuring that probationers attend



any mandatory treatment and counseling services. The Probation Department also ensure that fines, restitution and probation fees are paid, and that proper provisions are taken when the orders are not complied with. Another responsibility of the staff is to ensure that probationers follow court orders of, no contact with victims, in the appropriate cases.

The probation staff attended all court sessions relating to the office, and kept good liaison with the jail personnel and law enforcement officers. This office also provided the court interpreter services for the county.

For the FY 00/01 this office received 279 new probation cases. Out of those cases, 148 warrants were issued for non-compliers and there were 88 cases revoked and given different sentences. The Probation Department is responsible for collecting probation fees from probationers, and this department received \$53,410.00 for cost of supervision from the probationers.

The Probation Department is responsible for ensuring that probationers/community service workers complete court ordered hours.



For FY 00/01 there were 4,086 hours completed at the Hardee County Road Department, and Hardee Pioneer Park. These hours calculated at minimum wage would have cost the county \$21,042.91 to secure. There were additional community services hours provided to

the community at various non-profit organizations throughout the county.

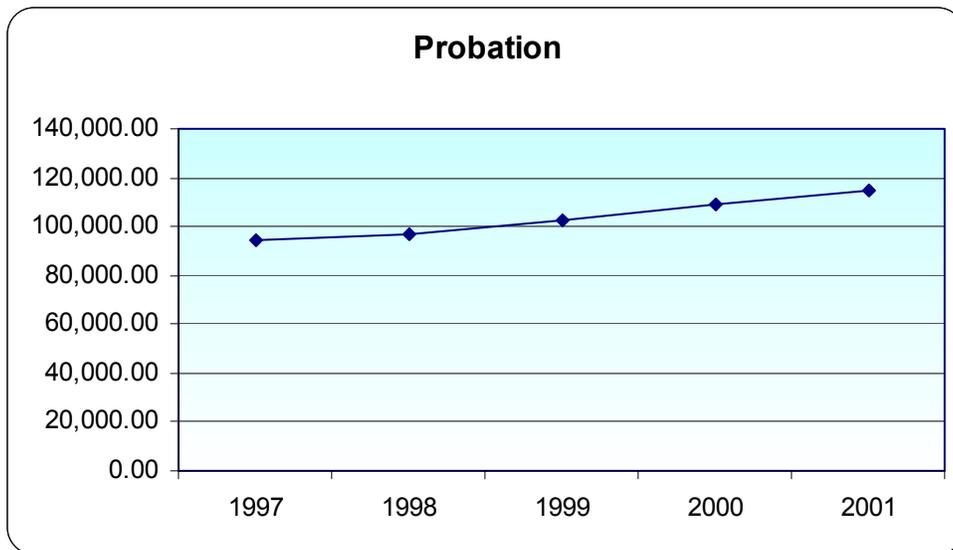
Staff has implemented some cost efficiency plans which include purging some unimportant papers from inactive files, in order to make more room in the filing cabinets. One other savings the staff has implemented is a different approach in send-

They now use a card system that does not require envelopes, and are sent at post card rate rather than the full stamp price.

During FY 00/01, the Probation Department had no pertinent capital improvement projects. Some of the outdated office equipment was replaced at the cost of \$1,503.62.

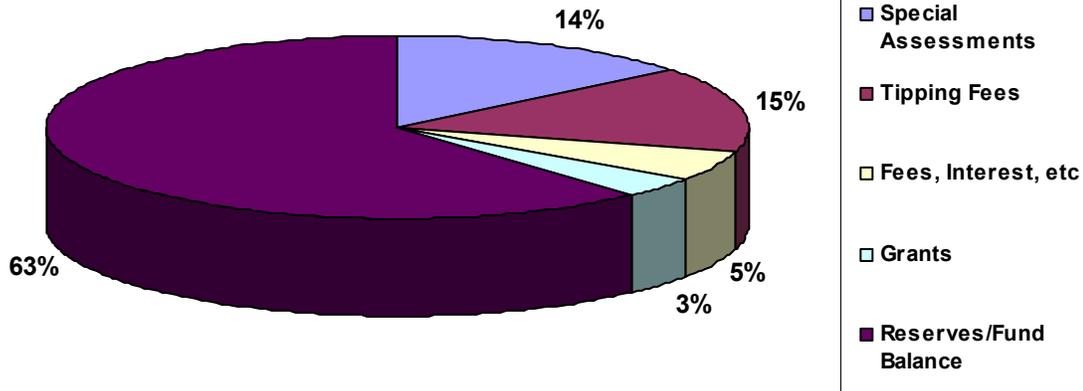
Goals and Objectives

The Probation Department's goal is to continue to provide professional and courteous service to all court related personnel, county personnel, and the public. We plan to ensure that the best assistance is given in the judicial system and in providing assistance to probationers to obtain any help that they may need. The Probation Department does not have any planned capital improvements for the next year.

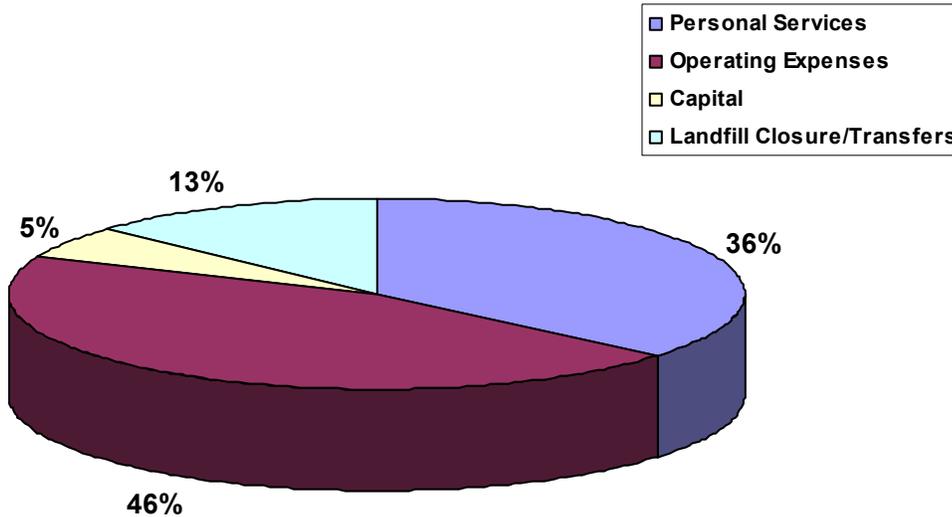


Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	89,417	93,242	96,931	100,697	108,786	114,151
Operating	3,895	3,627	5,298	6,262	4,667	10,615
Capital Outlay	1,142	0	0	1,929	1,503	900
TOTAL	94,454	96,869	102,229	108,888	114,958	125,666

SOLID WASTE 2000/2001 REVENUES



SOLID WASTE 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues		Expenditures	
Special Assessments	542,855	Personal Services	324,309
Tipping Fees	593,004	Operating Expenses	407,264
Fees, Interest, etc	211,263	Capital	49,368
Grants	131,195	Landfill Closure/ Transfers	118,234
Reserves/Fund Balance	2,390,865	Total	\$ 899,175
Total	3,869,182		

DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE

LANDFILL

The Landfill portion of the Solid Waste Department is responsible for the proper disposal of solid waste generated within the borders of Hardee County. Solid waste disposal at this facility includes waste generated from commercial and residential units as well as wood and yard trash and construction and demolition debris.

This department also manages specialized programs such as the Notification and Verification Program, the Household Hazardous Waste Collections Program and the Household Sharps Disposal Program. (Waste diversion, reduction and recycling programs are managed through a separate budget – Solid Waste/Recycling.)

This department acts as a resource agency for county residents and businesses on the proper management and disposal of any type of waste that they may generate. It also provides the County Manager and Board of County Commissioners with information on disposal and management options available for current and future planning.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Solid Waste Department is to provide for the proper management of and disposal of solid waste generated within the borders of Hardee County, using practices that ensure the sanctity of the county's environment and that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners.

Activities and Accomplishments

The Solid Waste Department processed 19,404.89 tons of waste, segregating the waste into the following categories:

Processed and Disposed in Class I:	17,021.67
Processed Wood and Yard:	1,585.61
Recycled: (Scrap Metal, Tires, Glass, Batteries, Used Oil, Florescent Bulbs, Corrugated Cardboard, Newsprint, Aluminum Steel and Tin Cans...)	790.46
Hazardous Waste:	7.15



The Landfill continued contracts with *Safety Kleen*, for the collection, transportation and proper disposal of household hazardous waste, and with *Central Florida Regional Planning Council* for the Notification Verification Program, which assist county businesses by educating them on proper management procedures for hazardous materials. Further, the Landfill continued their contract with *Short Environmental Laboratory* for the sampling and testing of leachate and groundwater and with the *City of Wauchula* for the proper treatment of the leachate.

Improvements for the Class I Landfill included a modification of the Class I Permit to increase the disposal area in the site, by filling in the leachate containment ditch with loose waste and a vertical expansion to the top. This modification was partially approved by the Department of Environmental Protections and added approximately two years to the life expectancy of the landfill. The cost of materials, equipment and land clearing for this improvement totaled \$9,325; engineering services totaled \$34,200.

The Solid Waste Department is responsible for accounting practices used for the collection of the tipping fees and for applications and management of various state grants. This past fiscal year, we collected and managed \$607,607.79 in tipping revenues, \$142,706.00 in grant funds, \$6,812.90 in the sale of recyclables and \$107.75 in miscellaneous.

Another major activity implemented by the Board of County Commissioners was to begin the process of initiating Universal Residential Solid Waste Collections. Waste generation projections, specifications and contract documents were prepared by the Solid Waste Department.

The county contracted with Government Services Group for the study and evaluation of fair apportionments for Solid Waste Assessments at a cost of \$21,181.

Ringhaver Equipment conducted major repairs to the D7H Dozier at a capital cost of \$29,287.73.

A State of Disaster was declared in September 2001. Emergency expenses incurred due to storm damage included the Hauling and Treatment of 1,000,000 gallons of leachate water. The leachate was hauled to Manatee County's Waste Water Treatment Facility by Delta Pioneer at a total estimated cost of \$46,500.00. Damages done to access roads called for immediate delivery of 1,860.57 tons of shell material purchased from SMR Aggregates at a cost of \$14,419.49. Total damages (including labor, equipment and materials) were assessed at \$107,122.69 and approved by FEMA.

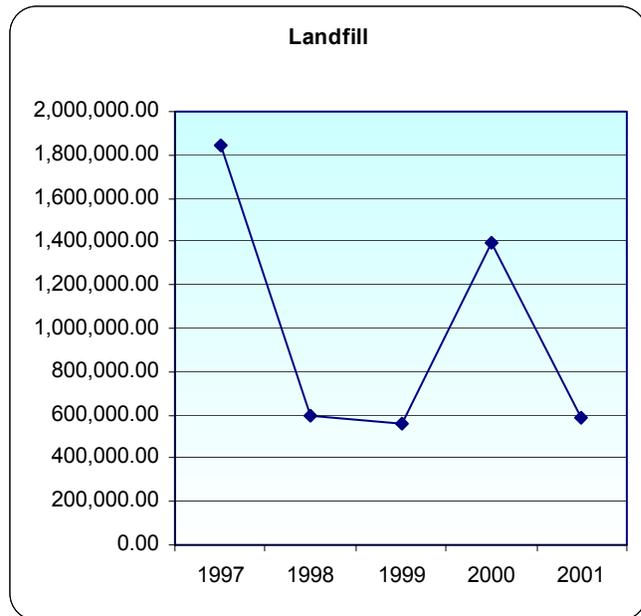
The Solid Waste Alternative Study prepared by the Solid Waste Department in August of 2000 received national and international recognition at the Solid Waste Association of North America's Annual Training Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in July of 2001. The presentation was done by Robert Gardner of SCS Engineers and co-authored by Janice Williamson, Solid Waste Superintendent.

The Solid Waste Department received three inspections from the Department of Environmental Protections on the Class I Landfill. No prohibitions were noted in any of the inspections and we were found to be in complete compliance with Federal and State regulations.

Goals and Objectives

Future goals for Solid Waste – Landfill include the implementation of Residential Universal Collections and an evaluation of the influences this program will have on operations and life expectancy of the Class I facility. Further objectives are to evaluate the preliminary plans for on site development of a new Class I disposal cell. We will continue to implement programs that promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling and to evaluate new and innovative technologies that are designed to minimize both air space used and cost associated with operations at this facility.

The Solid Waste Department has planned an expansion to facilitate the addition of Animal Services to the administrative office. We have also planned to purchase a 4 wheel drive vehicle and to update the load cells in the scales.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	226,214.35	232,134.40	219,952.12	204,954.34	184,807.50	231,070.00
Operating	399,622.58	197,159.64	139,922.76	162,780.13	277,952.31	950,291.00
Capital Outlay	202,458.53	54,108.62	0	914,980.71	8,363.43	338,500
Misc./Cont.	1,639,684.00	109,684.00	110,000.00	111,875.00	118,234.00	1,555,411.00
TOTAL	1,842,142.53	593,086.66	555,435.95	1,394,590.18	589,357.24	3,075,272.00



RECYCLING

The Recycling portion of the Solid Waste Department is responsible for recycling and waste/volume reduction activities. Recycling is achieved by evaluation of the economics of a particular material and by evaluating the level of difficulty to generate and manage that particular material. Waste reduction is often achieved through educational programs provided to the public and volume reduction is achieved through the baling process conducted at the Material Recovery Facility. This department also seeks to provide recycling alternatives to prohibited and/or restricted waste.

This department acts as a resource agency for the county residents and businesses on the availability of local recycling programs and available markets. It also provides support to the County Manager and Board of County Commissioners for the management options available for current and future planning.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Recycling portion of the Solid Waste Department is to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in the Class I Landfill by following practices of volume reduction through baling, diverting recyclable materials from the waste stream, and by promoting education on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Activities and Accomplishments

The Recycling Department continued contracts with *Florida Tire Recycling* in the

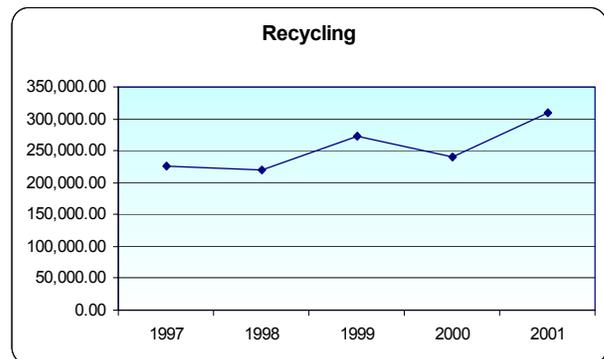
amount of \$119.50 per ton for the and processing of whole waste tires, *Consolidated Resource Recovery* for the processing of wood and yard trash at a cost of \$9.75 per ton, and with Hardee Correctional Institute for supplying a six man inmate labor work squad and one Corrections Officer, at a cost of \$44,997 per year.

Capital Cost included the purchase of a new Dodge Ram, 2500 Wagon (12 Passenger Van) for the transportation of the inmate work squad. The cost was \$17,667. In addition, a new forklift was purchased from National Lift Truck in the amount of \$20,908.

Goals and Objectives

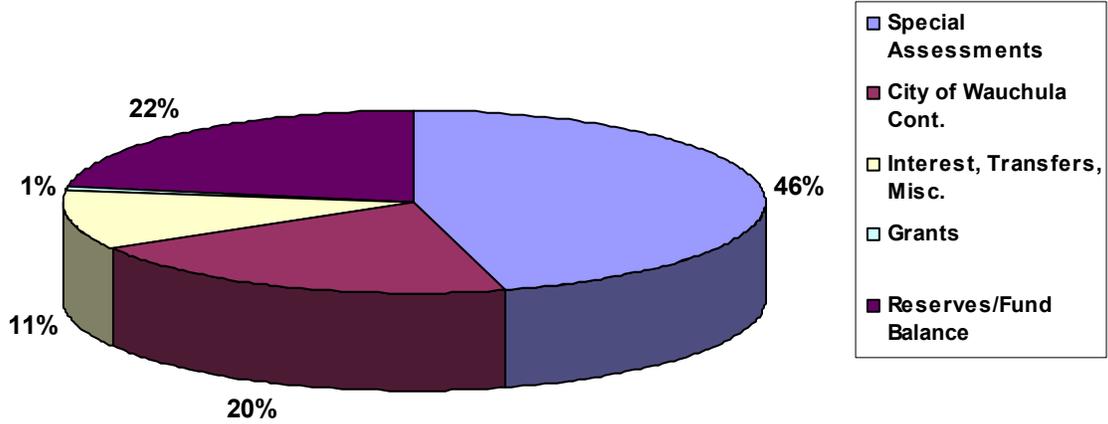
Goals include securing new and/or better markets for recyclables. This has and will be a difficult task due the deteriorating interest and funding that the State has in regards to the importance of recycling. We were fortunate to receive grant funding for this current fiscal year; it is not anticipated that funds will be available in the future. Due to this fact, our focus must redirect to the importance of volume reduction and on training county staff to achieve a higher levels of recycling coordination and management.

The major objective to be planned and accomplished will be the refurbishing of the Material Recovery Facility. This will include replacing the Selco-Harris 2R Baler System, resurfacing the floor, repairing structural damage to the concrete walls and construction of new, steel and aluminum catwalks. This plan is consistent and inline with the focus on volume reduction in the

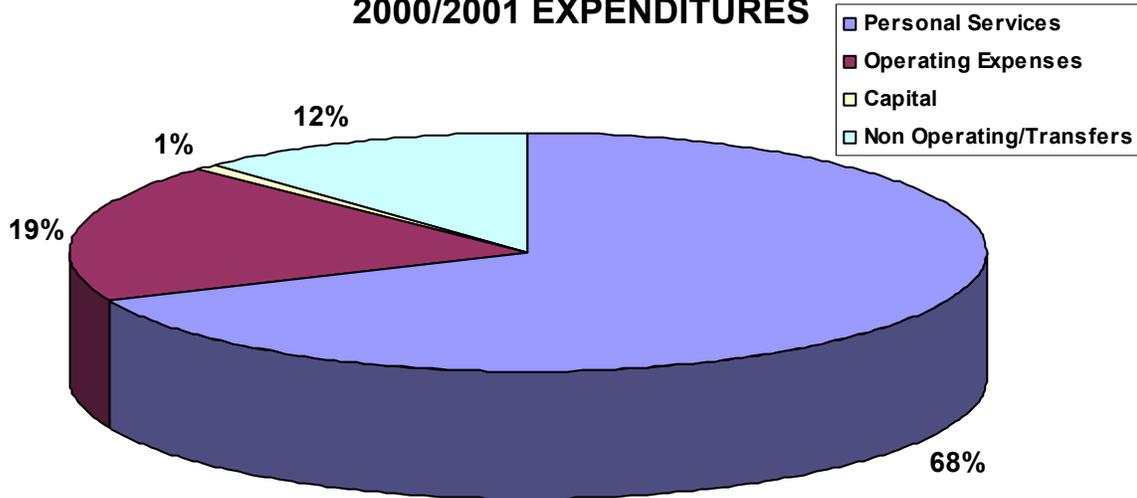


Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	128,209.90	110,898.49	97,401.04	92,505.65	139,501.44	147,787.00
Operating	94,250.62	108,966.02	151,108.07	145,881.98	129,311.80	189,427.00
Capital Outlay	2,446.55	0	23,794.00	1,249.98	41,004.33	324,000.00
TOTAL	224,907.07	219,864.51	272,213.11	239,637.61	309,817.57	661,214.00

FIRE CONTROL 2000/2001 REVENUES



FIRE CONTROL 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues

Special Assessments	457,652
City of Wauchula Cont.	203,528
Interest, Transfers, Misc.	107,327
Grants	7,557
Reserves/Fund Balance	221,226
Total	997,291

Expenditures

Personal Services	573,064
Operating Expenses	158,895
Capital	7,162
Non Operating/ Transfers	100,881
Total	840,003



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

History

Hardee County Fire Rescue was formed in 1987 and has its roots of the City of Wauchula Fire Department. The department has grown in size and in scope of responsibilities to become one of Florida's best small county fire departments. In 2000 the county absorbed Zolfo Springs Fire Department, establishing a part-time Station 2 that is staffed 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays.

Mission Statement

Hardee County Fire Rescue has the mission to prevent the loss of lives and property due to fire, life-threatening emergencies and disasters. HCFR will bolster its mission by providing fire prevention and safety education to citizens. Its emergency response shall be rapid with the deployment of highly trained, professional firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and EMT-Paramedics. The Department's dedication to the community extends to the mitigation of all emergencies using the most effective, efficient and cost-effective

methods available.

Summary of Activities

Hardee County Fire-Rescue is a multi-purpose department that operates an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service in conjunction with a fire suppression department. HCFR responds to a variety of 911 calls ranging from hazardous material spills to vehicle accidents.

The department is currently budgeted for a staff of 24 line personnel, about one-half of whom are dual-certified as firefighter- EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), the remainder are firefighter-paramedics. This talented team of individuals must routinely train, plan and be prepared for just about all emergency contingencies.

The administrative side of HCFR is comprised of a Chief, Assistant Chief, a Fire Prevention Officer, an Executive Secretary and a Billing Clerk. The department hired a new Chief in 2001. Other accomplishments include the promotion of Michael Choate to Assistant Chief, while Billy Wingate took over the responsibilities of Fire Prevention Officer.

The department in 2001 added two new ALS, Type I ambulances to replace older units. These units, Rescue 21 and Rescue 13, are state-of-the-art, diesel-powered platforms that allow HCFR paramedics and EMTs reliable transport of patients to a receiving hospital.





Goals & Objectives for 2002

This year provides a host of challenges for HCFR. The department's primary goal is to carefully grow its staff, physical operations and equipment to meet the needs of the County's citizens. As the county population increases and societal perceptions of our role changes in the community, the department is called upon to mitigate, rescue, extinguish, prevent and educate at an increasing level. Yet the department strives to attain these goals while delivering its services in an efficient and cost-effective manner. HCFR's success in coming years will be measured not only in its ability to manage the quantity of the calls to which it responds, but by the quality of response it delivers. HCFR's success in coming years will be measured not only in its ability to manage the quantity of the calls to which it responds, but by the quality of response it delivers.

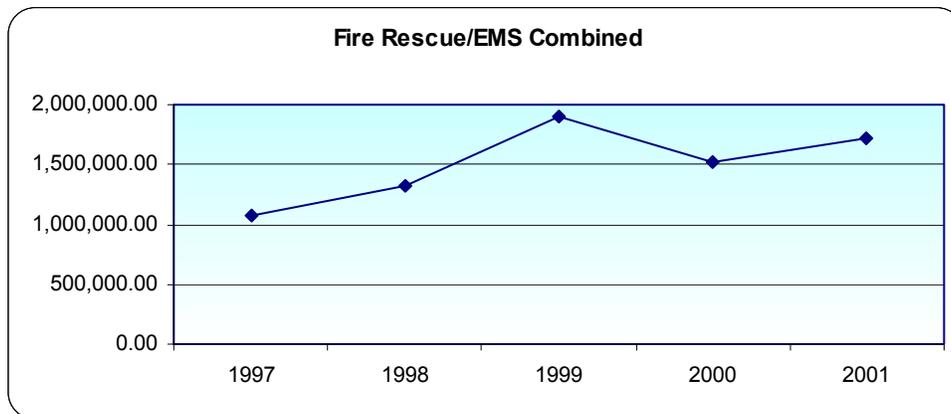


The department responds to approximately 3,000 emergencies per year. These calls are detailed by type in the accompanying table.

The next telling statistic the Fire-Rescue tracks is "All Call." This category is important because it illustrates when no additional staffing was available for a period of time due to the high incidence of calls in progress. This number is a huge training aid to HCFR and the entire Public Safety area.

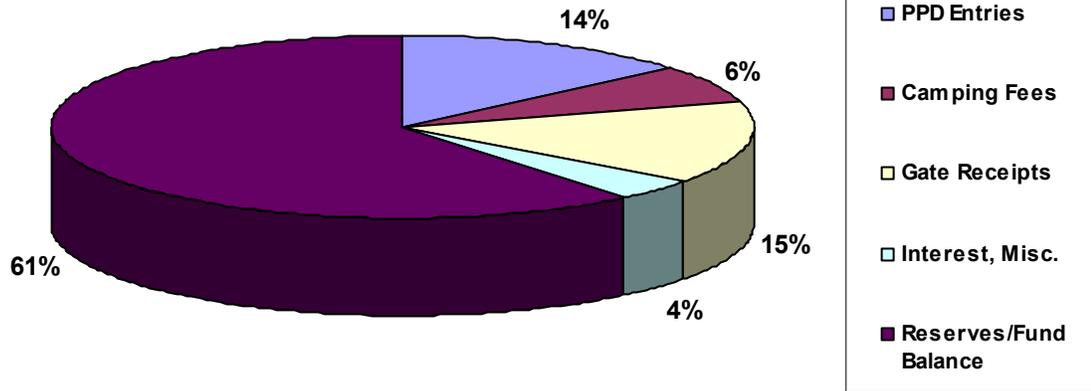
Grants:

HCFR received a \$20, 900 grant for enhancing EMS services the department provides the County. This EMS Rural County grant was used to buy a LifePak 12, which is a type of Automatic External Defibrillator. This complicated, portable device is a literal lifesaver for those having cardiac emergencies.

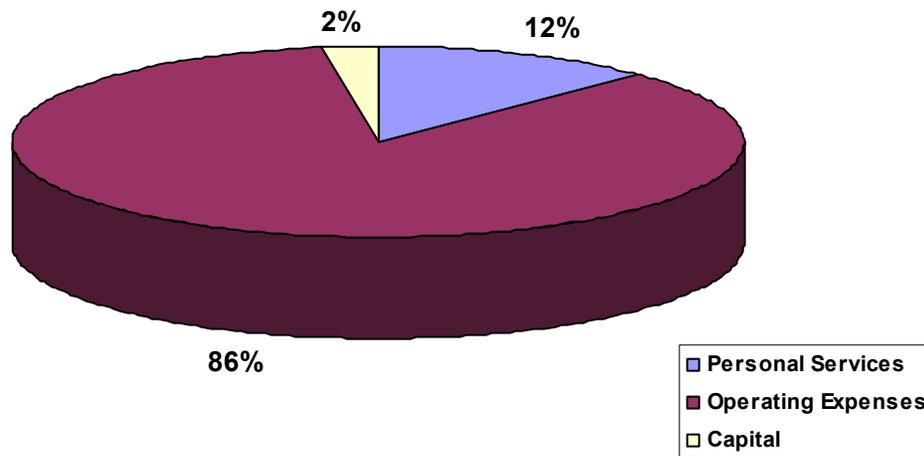


Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	788,883.12	831,845.61	891,116.78	925,163.06	1,211,744.28	1,334,488
Operating	236,852.40	297,046.24	273,448.00	248,301.52	286,646.11	314,893.00
Capital Outlay	18,379.00	144,259.43	508,204.50	280,098.86	103,537.50	123,850.00
Transfers/Misc	32,195.00	50,000.00	226,932.00	70,196.00	116,978.59	385,413.00
TOTAL	1,076,309.52	1,320,151.28	1,899,701.28	1,523,759.44	1,718,906.48	2,158,644

PIONEER PARK DAYS 2000/2001 REVENUES



PIONEER PARK DAYS 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues	
PPD Entries	61,089
Camping Fees	28,379
Gate Receipts	65,183
Interest, Misc.	16,864
Reserves/Fund Balance	266,564
Total	438,079

Expenditures	
Personal Services	25,026
Operating Expenses	171,366
Capital	4,996
Total	201,387



Hardee County Animal Refuge Project
 Portions of the funding provided by:
 The FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 AND
 FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
 AND
 HARDEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 Funding from Pioneer Park Days.
 Commissioners
 District I: William R. Lambert
 District II: Clifford H. Timmerman
 District III: Gordon H. Harris
 District IV: E. Milton Lanier
 District V: Walter B. Obit, Jr.



PIONEER PARK DAYS

Pioneer Park Days Personnel consists of one (1) full time employee. This staff person assists with all duties of the Personnel Department throughout the year.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pioneer Park Days is providing revenue to continue to assist in funding park improvements for all County owned Parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Hardee County.

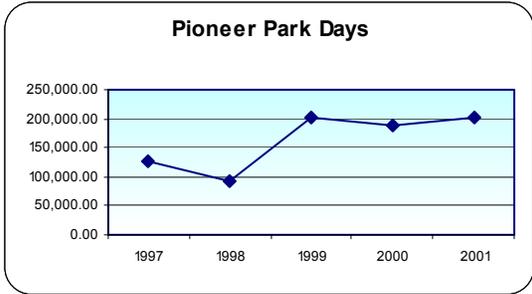
Activities and Accomplishments

Revenues collected from Pioneer Park Days annual event are used toward the salary of the one (1) full time employee in the Personnel Department and the temporary workers during the show. The revenues also pay for all expenses entailed in putting on the show as well as park improvements. Preparations for the annual show begin in November with the mail out of rules and registrations to the participants and continue until March to the completion of the show. The 2001 Pioneer Park Days show was a success and continued to bring in a profit to enable future improvements to be accomplished.



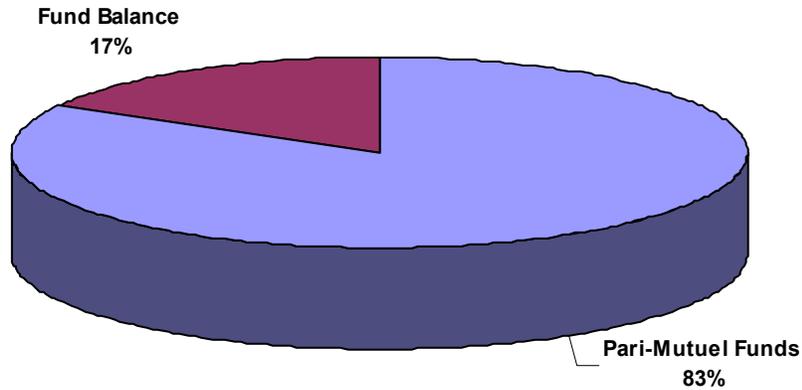
The revenues from past Pioneer Park Days has enabled the County to make improvements such as Animal Refuse, constructing the Nickerson Ullrich Building, purchase property for parking lot (across S.R.64), Future plans include water and sewer for Pioneer Park, additions of Restrooms at Pioneer Park as well as be instrumental in funding of future plans for the County Park located on O. Roberts Road in Fort Green.

Coordination of a show of this magnitude entails dedicated planning, purchasing, communicating with participants and the public in a professional, friendly and understanding manner. As past revenues indicate the Personnel/Pioneer Park Days staff has maintained these qualities to ensure the

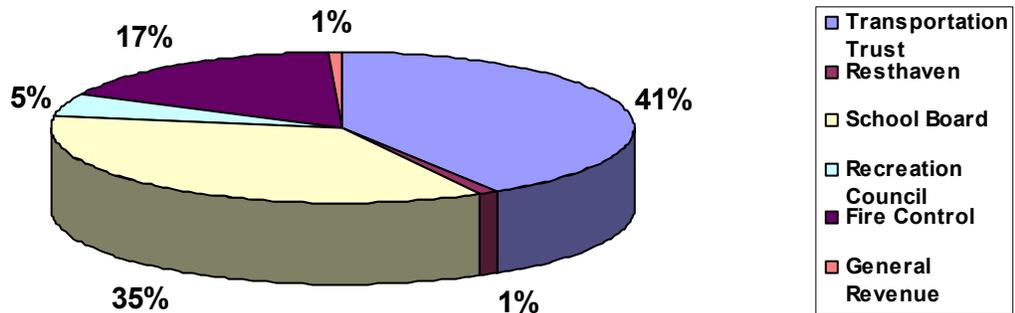


Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
Personnel	24,315.35	25,656.76	23,756.67	24,465.22	25,025.64	30,874.00
Operating	68,987.21	64,368.86	172,153.64	162,310.94	171,365.87	263,497.00
Capital Outlay	34,747.91	7,060.41	5,640.68	0	4,995.62	0
Contingency	0	0	0	0	0	28,656.00
TOTAL	128,050.47	91,895.42	201,550.99	186,776.16	201,387.13	323,027.00

RACE TRACK 2000/2001 REVENUES



RACE TRACK 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues

Pari-Mutuel Funds	446,500
Fund Balance	90,951
Total	\$ 537,451

Expenditures

Transportation Trust	220,500
Resthaven	6,625
School Board	187,375
Recreation Council	26,500
Fire Control	91,000
General Revenue	5,000
Total	\$ 537,000

RACE TRACK/JAI ALAI

These funds were previously generated through license fees and taxes related to pari-mutuel wagering, however these funds are currently generated through sales tax funds due to recent changes by the legislature.



Each county in the State of Florida receives \$446,500 annually. The use of these funds are controlled by General and Special Law in the Florida Statutes. Special law currently mandates that the first \$45,000 received in Race Track Revenues is to be distributed to Hardee Memorial Hospital District Board for payment toward the construction bond of the hospital. The bond was paid in full in April of 1999 and these funds are now available to be used at the Board's discretion.

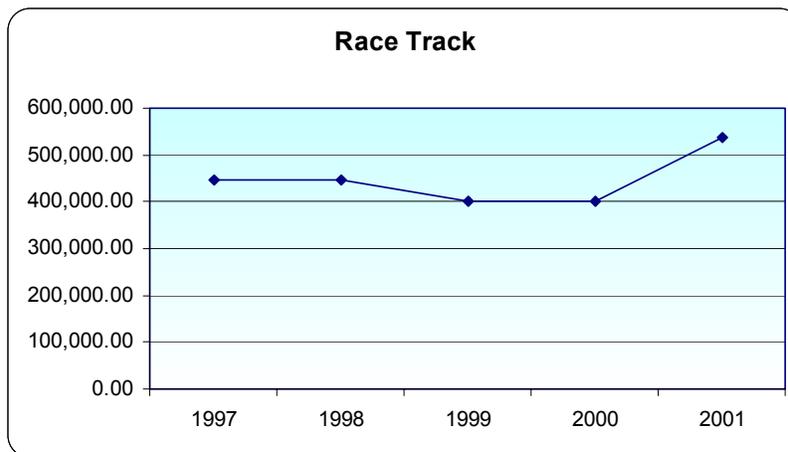
When the hospital bond was redeemed, a two year reserve was accumulated in the Race Track Fund for future uses.

In fiscal year 2001 funds will be disbursed as follows:

School Board	\$ 187,375
Transportation Trust	\$ 221,000
*Recreational Council	\$ 26,500
Resthaven	\$ 6,625
General Revenue Fund	\$ 5,000
Fire Control	<u>\$ 91,000</u>
Total	\$ 537,500

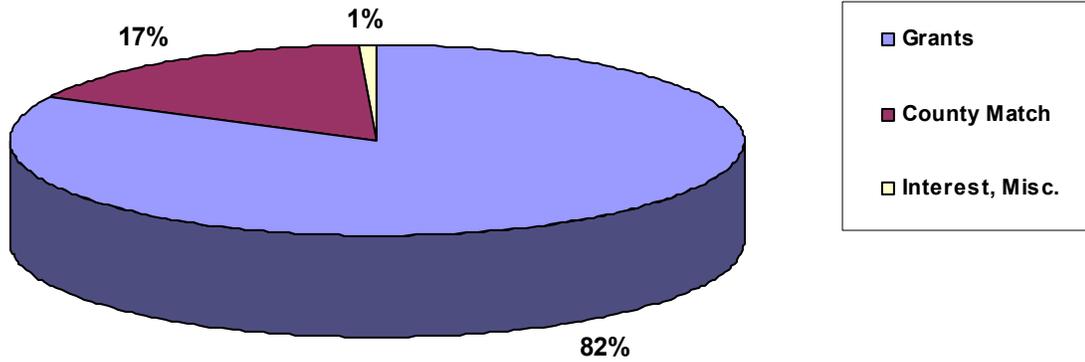
During fiscal year 2002 funds will be distributed as follows:

School Board	\$ 187,375
Transportation Trust	\$ 150,000
*Recreational Council	\$ 26,500
Resthaven	\$ 6,625
Fire Control	<u>\$ 76,000</u>
Total	\$ 446,500

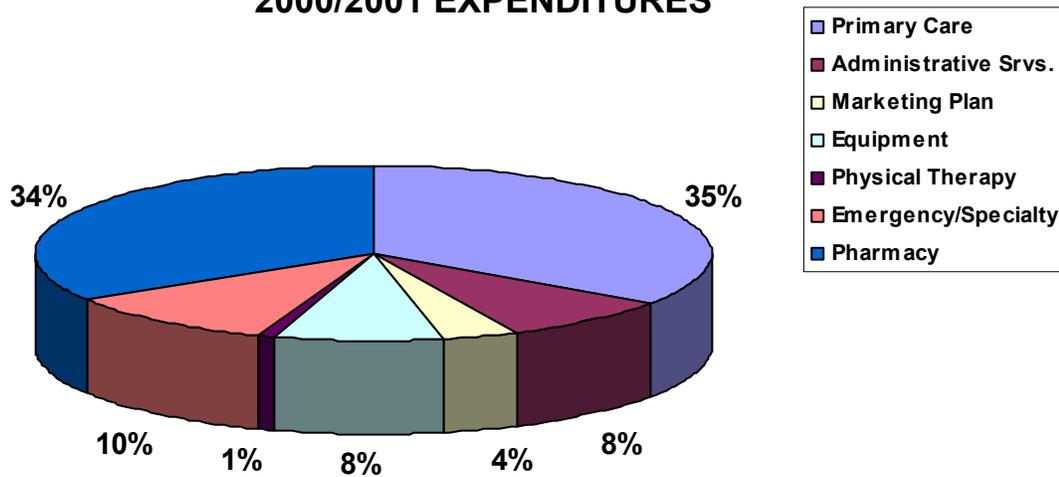


Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 96/97	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01	BUDGET FY 01/02
TOTAL	\$446,500	\$446,500	\$401,500	\$401,500	\$537,500	\$446,500

PRIMARY CARE 2000/2001 REVENUES



PRIMARY CARE 2000/2001 EXPENDITURES



Revenues		Expenditures	
Grants	182,500	Primary Care	\$ 97,437
County Match	36,500	Administrative Svcs.	\$ 23,565
Interest, Misc.	1,917	Marketing Plan	\$ 10,373
Reserves/Cash Forward	88,736	Equipment	\$ 22,350
Total	309,653	Physical Therapy	\$ 2,888
		Emergency/Specialty	\$ 29,267
		Pharmacy	95,663
		Total	\$ 281,542

PRIMARY CARE GRANT

With indigent health care becoming a primary issue of concern to the County, the Board established a Health Care Task Force to evaluate the health care needs in the community. The health care service providers of the community joined forces to ensure that the health care needs in Hardee County are addressed.

The Health Care Task Force was successful in securing a grant funding through the State of Florida to establish a Health Care Network Program. The program assists individuals that do not have insurance or do not receive state or federal health care assistance. The program was extremely successful and provided health care to over 1600 residents of Hardee County. The grant received from the state was initially a grant in the amount of \$146,000 for a period of three years. For a three year period the Board of County Commissioners provide matching funds in the amount of \$36,500 to assist with this program.

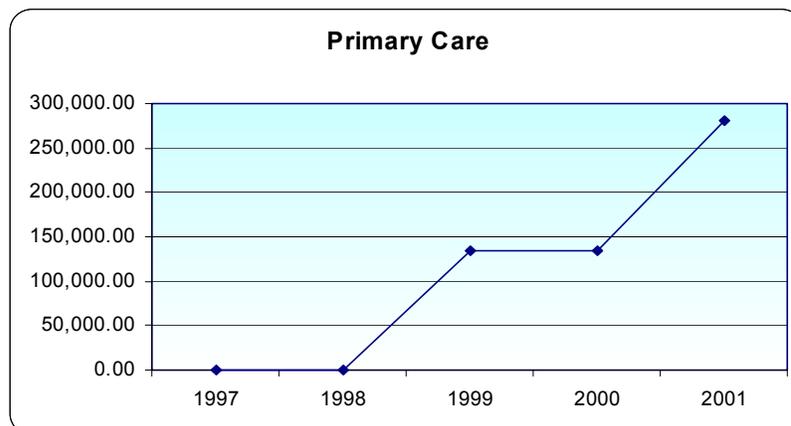
However, following the events of September 11th, the State was forced to make budget cuts and the final phase of funding was eliminated and the program was forced to



Program Participants Included:

Pioneer Medical Center
 Central Florida Health Care
 Pete's Pharmacy
 Florida Hospital
 Heartland Pediatrics
 Hardee County Health Department
 Florida Clinic of Hardee

The governor has included \$4.7 million dollars in his budget to assist with programs similar to Hardee County's Program. If funding is not received, the Health Care Task Force will continue to pursue grant funding to assist with this program.



Expenditure Summary	ACTUAL FY 97/98	ACTUAL FY 98/99	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 99/00	ACTUAL FY 00/01
TOTAL	0	0	\$133,871	\$133,871	\$281,543

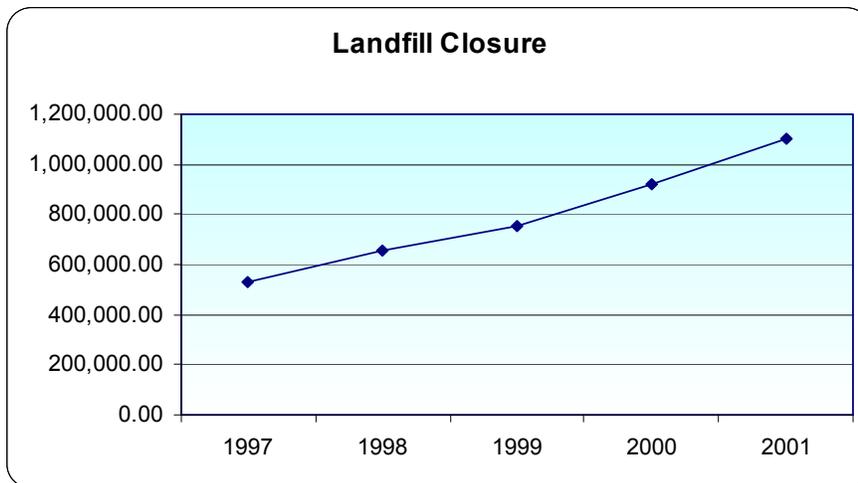
**LANDFILL CLOSURE
RESERVE FUND**

The Landfill Closure Fund is supported by and through Solid Waste revenues and is mandated by Florida Administrative Code 62-701.630. This fund is established to determine proof of financial assurance for the closure of those portions of the landfill under state permits. Annual estimates are required for the total cost of closure and annual deposits to the fund are calculated in accordance with Florida Administrative Code 62-701.630 (5)1a. Further, this fund, in accordance with state laws and County Resolution can only be withdrawn for the purpose of closing the Landfill. Cost closure estimates include engineering, construction of cap, final cover material, re-vegetation and methane gas venting systems.

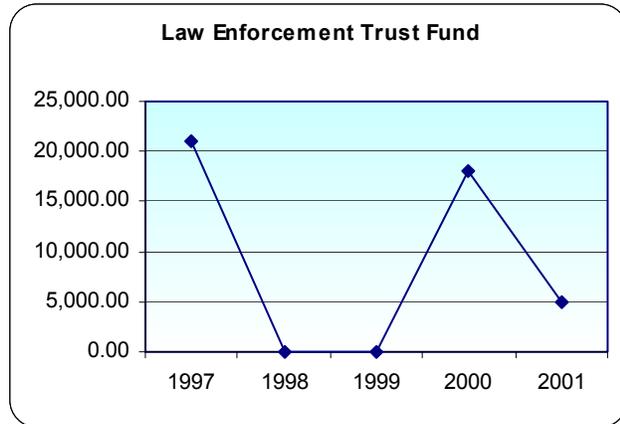
The amounts reflected in the chart are the total funds accumulated by transfers made from the Solid Waste Department. The amount transferred this year was \$110,000.



Calendar year 2001, estimates were calculated to be \$1,305,702 for closure and 1,588,140 for the long term care of the landfill (Long term care is not pre-funded). At the end of September, the Landfill Closure Fund and Investment Fund had accumulated \$1,103,908. Therefore, if this amount does not vary significantly, the remaining amount to be funded for closure would be \$201,794.



Annual Reserve	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Summary	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
TOTAL	\$532,519	\$653,375	\$755,452	\$923,671	\$1,103,908	\$1,185,000



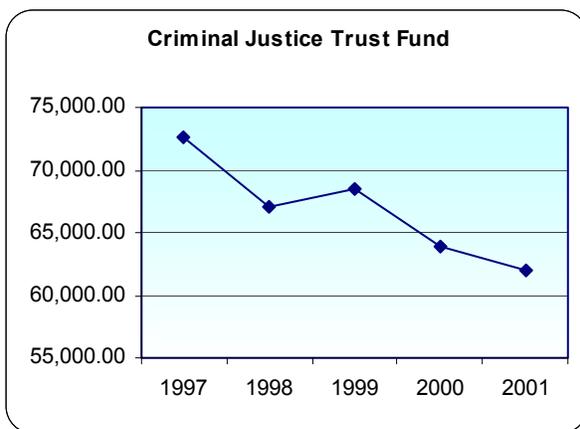
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

These are funds generated by the Sheriff's Department for confiscated properties and interest. Florida Statutes mandate how this money can be spent. The Sheriff must requisition for these funds and state how he wishes to spend them. The Board of County Commissioners must approve the request.

LETF	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Summary	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
TOTAL	\$21,000	0	0	18,126	5,000	30,625

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRUST FUND

These revenues are collected by the Clerk under direction of the Judge when sentencing certain violators. Criteria is set by Statute and the Court System. These funds can be used to upgrade the court facilities or related needs as set by Statute. The funds can also be used to defray costs in the Fine and Forfeiture Fund. Funds are accumulated annually and transferred to the Fine and Forfeiture Fund.



CJTF	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Summary	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
TOTAL	\$72,574	\$67,004	\$68,430	\$63,812	62,001	61,750





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