

# HARDEE COUNTY



***Paving a Path to a Promising Future***



## Annual Report 2001-2002



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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.

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

**Constitutional Officers**

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

**Board of County Commission Service Departments**

<b>County Manager</b> Lexton Albritton 412 West Orange Street, Room A-203 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-9430 Fax 863-773-0958	<b>Office of Budget &amp; Finance</b> Kathy L. Crawford, Director 412 West Orange Street Room A-203 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-6952 Fax 863-773-0958	<b>Planning &amp; Development</b> Kris DeLaney, Director 110 South 9th Street Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-767-9655 Fax 863-767-0360
<b>Public Safety</b> Bill Muhlfeld, Director 404 West Orange Street Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-6373 Fax 863-773-0107	<b>Economic Development</b> Park Winter, Director 312 North Seventh Avenue Wauchula, FL 33873 863-773-3030 Fax 863-773-0246	<b>Public Works</b> J. R. Prestridge, Director 205 Hanchey Road Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-3272 Fax 863-773-0107

**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  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
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  
Fax 863-773-5801

**County Extension**  
Lochrane Gary  
507 Civic Center Drive  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-2164  
Fax 863-773-6861

**County Library**  
Diane Hunt  
315 North 6th Avenue  
Suite 114  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-6438  
Fax 863-767-1091

**County Probation**  
Peter Zelyk  
412 West Orange Street  
Room A-203  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-9323  
Fax 863-773-0966

**E-911  
Veteran's Affairs**  
Larry Pelton  
149 K.D. Revell Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-0222  
Fax 863-773-3827

**Maintenance Shop**  
Gary Miller  
205 Hanchey Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-6430  
Fax 863-773-3558

**Mining**  
Doug Knight  
110 South 9th Street  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-0136  
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  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-5089  
Fax 863-773-3907

## County Manager's Message



As we reflect back on our accomplishments over the past year, it is evident that our county government is progressing in many areas. Whether we are addressing health care and housing needs, providing areas for leisure and recreation, ensuring public safety to our citizens or establishing a basis for a sound economy through the development of infrastructure, we are *"Paving a Path To a Promising Future"*. Though we routinely address these general governmental obligations, we are continually seeking to discover more efficient and cost effective methods of delivering these services to the citizens of Hardee County.

Over the past several years, the Board of County Commissioners has made a commitment to ensure that Hardee County has a prosperous future. The main goal of the Board is to expand our opportunities for the future by focusing on economic development. While we recognize and appreciate the fact that Hardee County's agricultural based industry has sustained us throughout the years, we are seeking to diversify our economic development opportunities and prepare for what the future holds. Though we are a small rural area, we have many incentives to offer businesses and are steadfastly addressing the weak areas with a specific focus on water and sewer improvements. We currently have two wastewater treatment facilities under construction (Vandolah Wastewater Treatment Facility and Wauchula Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility) and will soon be providing water in the Wauchula Hills area. With the assistance of Federal and State funds we have been given the opportunity to embark on these projects.

In an effort to ensure that we will accomplish our goal for community growth, the Board is seeking assistance from the State of Florida. In December of 2002, our legislators held a Legislative Delegation Hearing and the Board delivered a legislative packet to Senator John D. Alexander and Representative Baxter Troutman. The legislative packet included many requests that were aimed at accomplishing a number of our goals in moving toward industry development. Our main objective in the delivery of Hardee County's legislative packet was to convince our legislators that Hardee County is in need of a greater portion of the severance tax dollars that are generated by the phosphate industry. Currently counties regulating mining activities receive only 18% of the tax dollars paid by phosphate companies with the remaining 82% distributed to various state agencies. We presented a proposed bill that delivers a larger portion of the tax to counties designated as a "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern".

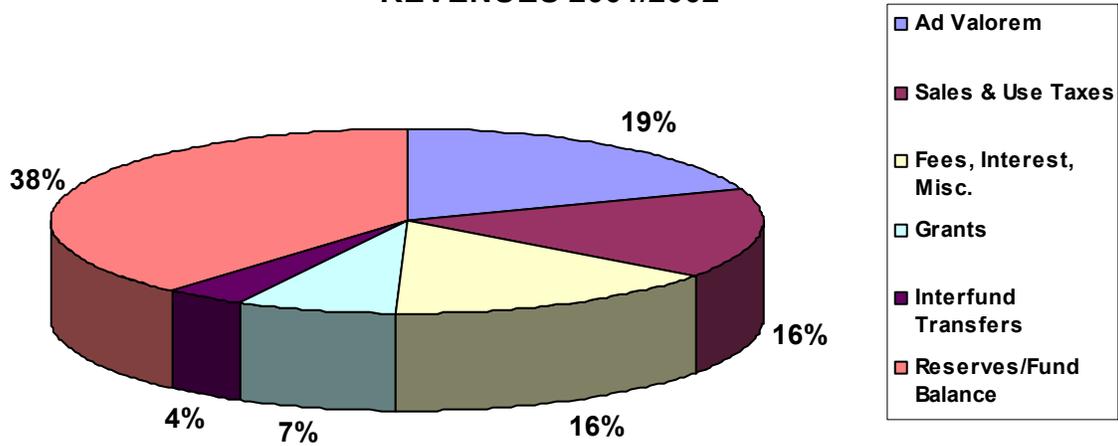
In the year 2000, Governor Bush presented Hardee County with that designation. If we are successful with our proposal, all excess funds received through the additional severance tax will be designated specifically for economic development improvements enabling us to accomplish our goals.

We are striving to provide the citizens of Hardee County with a community they can take pride in. As you read through the report, we hope that you will be enlightened by the accomplishments we are continuing to make. With a vision of positive opportunities for tomorrow and the support of a community willing to make a commitment to Hardee County, there is no doubt that we will prosper as we continue *"Paving a Path To a Promising Future"*.

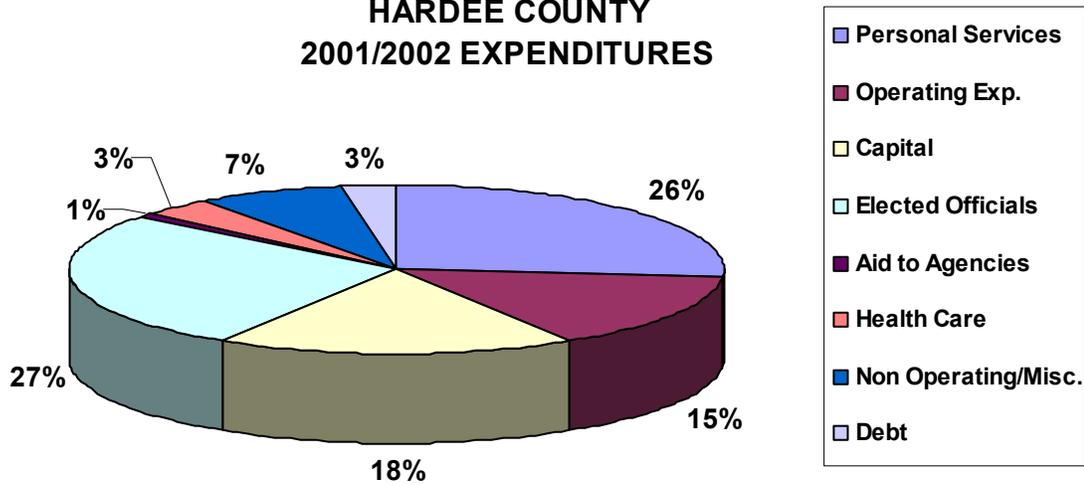
### PLANNED PROJECTS FOR 2002/2003

- **Wauchula Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility**
- **Vandolah Wastewater Treatment**
- **Courthouse Renovations**
- **Annex I Renovations/County Commission Chambers**
- **Pioneer Park Sewer System**
- **Emergency Management Communications Center**
- **E-911 Telecommunications Equipment**
- **Animal Refuge Expansion**
- **Road Resurfacing—twenty-five miles**
- **SFCC Preparations—Sauls Road Construction and Water Improvements**
- **Bridge Rehabilitation (Steve Special, Old Town Creek, Parnell)**
- **New Construction—Paving (West Main Street, Ten Mile Grade)**
- **Recycling Center Improvements**

### HARDEE COUNTY REVENUES 2001/2002



### HARDEE COUNTY 2001/2002 EXPENDITURES



#### Revenues

Ad Valorem	7,279,594
Sales & Use Taxes	5,846,633
Fees, Interest, Misc.	5,859,240
Grants	2,793,606
Interfund Transfers	1,361,684
Reserves/Fund Balance	14,493,105

**Total** \$ **37,633,862**

#### Expenditures

Personal Services	6,463,420
Operating Exp.	3,602,517
Capital	4,352,077
Elected Officials	6,551,101
Aid to Agencies	181,223
Health Care	850,062
Non Operating/Misc.	1,788,128
Debt	675,519

**Total** \$ **24,464,047**

## OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

### Historical Overview

The Board of County Commissioners appointed the first Budget Officer for Hardee County in December of 1985. Pursuant to FS 129.025 Counties have the authority to appoint a Budget Officer to oversee fiscal issues pertaining to the Board. Prior to 1985 the Clerk of Courts was responsible for Budget related activities. The duties of this office 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. Our Department functions in the capacity of internal auditors, ensuring that laws and procedures pertaining to budgeting and finance are carried out in the appropriate manner.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to properly manage the County's finances in accordance with state regulations and to ensure that there are 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 2001/2002, the Board assessed a millage rate of 8.50 mills and the taxable value in Hardee County was \$883,138,518. The total amount of Ad Valorem taxes collected was **\$7,279,594** with **\$2,504,908** credited to the General Revenue Fund and **\$4,774,685** credited to the Fine and Forfeiture Fund.

This fiscal year the Board reduced the millage rate from 8.75 mills to 8.5 mills. For the three year period prior to that, the Board assessed a millage rate of 8.75 mills. In 1998 the millage rate was 9.75 mills. Prior to 1998 the millage rate was capped at 10 mills for an eight year period. The millage rate has gradually been



reduced over the years due to additional revenues received through the one cent small county sales surtax and an increase in assessed taxable value.

#### ***Budget Process***

In July of 2002, the Property Appraiser delivered the certification of taxable value which is the official beginning of the budget process according to state regulations. The taxable value increased by 17.95% for a total taxable value of \$1,031,968,063.

During this past year's budget process for the adoption of the 2002/2003 fiscal year budget the Board reduced millage to 8.25 mills.

All county departments developed budgets according to the guidelines established by our office and for a period of three full days, the Board carefully analyzed the proposed expenditures and made adjustments where feasible.

This year we developed a more streamlined process for compiling the budget and all departments were able to electronically enter their budget requests through the county's network system. This process proved to be extremely beneficial. With calculations formatted in the budget program, there were virtually no errors in initial calculations and less time was dedicated to manual calculations.



### ***Legislation Affecting County Budget***

The 2001 Legislative Session had mostly a positive affect on the County's local budget for fiscal year 2001/2002. During this session, the State allocated \$1,400,000 to Hardee County for the development of a Wastewater Treatment Facility, \$413,186 for courthouse renovations, and in addition provided some funding assistance for local road projects through the Small County Road Assistance program. Though funding for these projects was a success, the State discontinued allocating the \$100,000 annual contribution for small county courthouse renovations. The State also discontinued funding for our local Primary Health Care Program which was becoming a successful means of addressing health care needs within the community.

In addition, we were unsuccessful in our endeavor to receive a more fair distribution of the severance tax proceeds. Last year we requested that the State consider increasing the County's allocation of the severance tax funds based on the fact that the Governor had designated Hardee County as a "Rural Area Of Critical Economic Concern". Though we were unsuccessful, we have requested that the State reconsider during the 2003 Legislative session. Though no specific legislative changes that occurred during the 2002 Legislative Session had a significantly negative impact on the County's local budget, there have been several issues discussed over the past several years which will eventually have an affect on local governments. Some of those issues include increased costs of the County's share of Medicaid costs, reductions in county recycling grants, reduction to local assistance for housing, and the restructuring of state mandated court costs—Revision 7 of Article V. We will continue to seek the assistance from our legislators to ensure that

legislative changes which may significantly impact our county are addressed.

By the direction of the County Manager and the Board, our office was responsible for the development of the legislative packet for the Legislative Delegation Hearing. This document has become an effective means of communicating our local issues to our State Legislators.

### ***Special Assessments***

Hardee County's Special Assessment program is managed through the Office of Budget and Finance. This past year the Board restructured their method of assessing fees for fire and waste services. A major part of the revision to the program was the inclusion of garbage collection services to all residential units in the unincorporated area of the County. In addition, for newly constructed residential units, the new program provides that prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy a prorated portion of the special assessments are to be collected. Owners of newly constructed units are routed to the Office of Budget and Finance, where fees are assessed and collected prior to the issuance of the CO.



### ***Debt/Investments***

During fiscal year 2000/2001, the Board borrowed \$4,000,000 through the Florida Local Government Finance Commission to assist with major road and bridge improvements throughout the County. The majority of those funds have been utilized with only a couple of proposed projects remaining to be complete. Throughout the

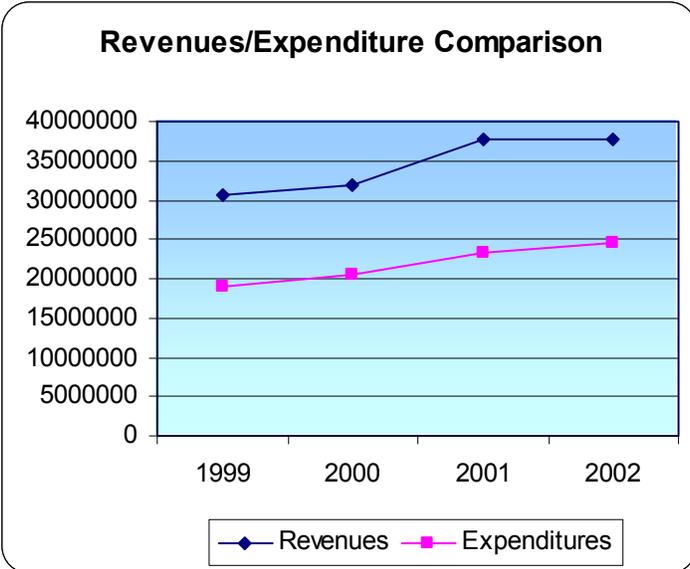
year those funds that have not been expensed on construction have been invested with the Florida Local Government Investment Trust (FLGIT). Though interest rates have been extremely low, during the year we earned \$140,117 which exceeded the interest and fees paid on the loan by \$49,544.

At the end of fiscal year funds invested with local banking institutions and FLGIT totaled \$5,814,361. Total interest earned on investments was \$461,414.

**Revenue/Expenditure Summary**

Total revenues collected during 2000/2001 excluding fund balances and debt service were \$23,140,757 and expenditures were \$24,464,047. This year overall expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,323,290, thereby reducing our fund balance/reserves significantly.

The Chart below shows a pattern of revenues and expenditures for the past four years. As indicated in the chart, overall the County has maintained sufficient funds to cover expenses and has maintained an approximate cash forward balance of \$10,000,000. As reported last year, though the overall balance is significant, of some fifteen established funds, the only fund without restricted uses is the General Revenue Fund. In the past the General Revenue Fund has maintained an approximate cash forward balance of \$4,000,000, however overall expenditures over last year increased by \$2,432,618.



<b>Revenues</b>	
Ad Valorem	7,279,594
Sales & Use Taxes	5,846,633
Fees, Interest, Misc.	5,859,240
Grants	2,793,606
Transfers	1,361,684
Reserves/Cash Fwd.	<u>14,493,105</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 37,633,862</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personal Services	6,463,420
Operating Expenses	3,602,517
Capital Expenses	4,352,077
Elected Officials	6,551,101
Aid to Agencies	181,223
Health Care	850,062
Non Operating	1,788,128
Debt	<u>675,519</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,464,047</b>

**Goals and Objectives**

For 2003 the Office of Budget and Finance will maintain a “Total Quality” approach and seek to improve our methods for:

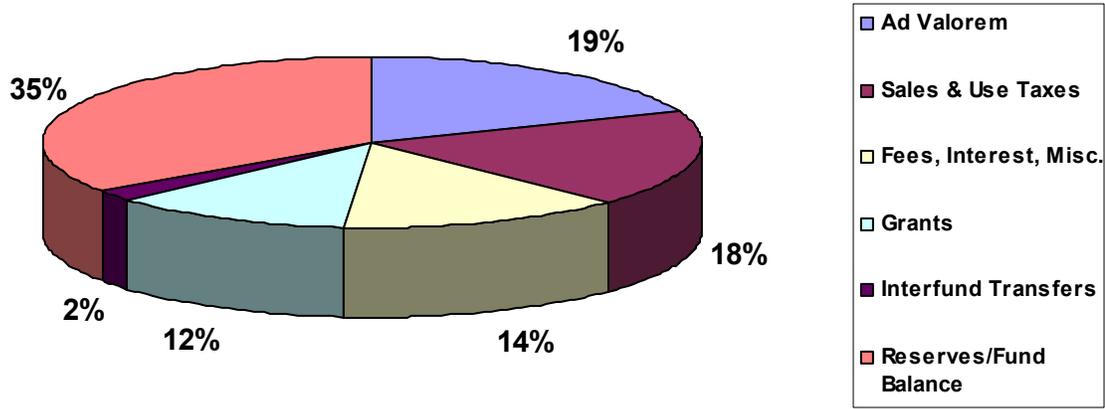
- Developing and managing the County Budget;
- Compiling and disseminating the Annual Report;
- Managing investments;
- Administering the Special Assessment Program;
- Conducting Indigent Health Care activities;
- Directing and managing debt activities.

Some of our goals for the upcoming year include:

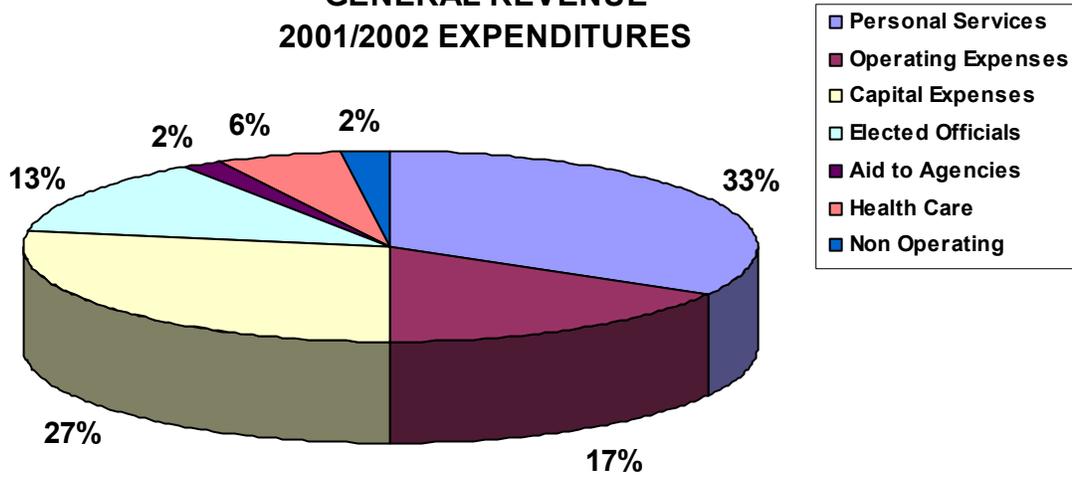
- Developing a Capital Improvement Policy and 3-5 year Capital Plan;
- Developing a Budget Policy with specific timetables for the budget process;
- Implementing timelines for the completion of capital projects approved during budget process;
- Developing procedures for quarterly financial presentations.

Though we made a considerable amount of progress this year, we will continue to strive to achieve excellence throughout the upcoming year.

**GENERAL REVENUE  
2001/2002 REVENUES**



**GENERAL REVENUE  
2001/2002 EXPENDITURES**



<b>Revenues</b>			<b>Expenditures</b>		
Ad Valorem		2,504,908	Personal Services		3,576,178
Sales & Use Taxes		2,339,665	Operating Expenses		1,800,874
Fees, Interest, Misc.		1,847,656	Capital Expenses		2,926,833
Grants		1,549,321	Elected Officials		1,396,169
Interfund Transfers		249,721	Aid to Agencies		181,223
Reserves/Fund Balance		4,517,090	Health Care		617,092
			Non Operating		226,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,008,362</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,725,196</b>

## PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

The Personnel Department is responsible for all aspects of Human Resources to ensure disciplinary matters, employment and other labor issues are properly handled in accordance with Hardee County Rules and Regulations, and State and Federal Laws.

Another very important responsibility of the Personnel Department is the investigation and processing of worker's compensation, auto, property and liability claims. Our goal is to reduce the number of claims and work closely with our insurance carrier and legal counsels in an attempt to control expenditures.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Personnel Department is to provide support to other County departments, to ensure the Board of County Commissioners' employment practices and benefits are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners.

### Activities And Accomplishments

During the past year, the Personnel Department conducted 93 interviews and was successful in hiring 49 new employees. We currently have 248 applications on file.

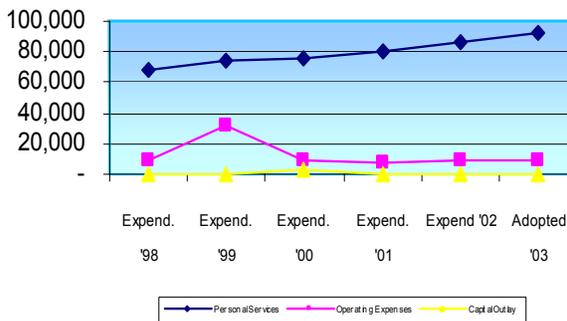


In the area of safety, we have excelled in our safety training programs. Our safety committee has been conducting monthly meetings evaluating accidents and making recommendations to ensure the safety of County employees. In an effort to reduce workers compensation claims, we have shown numerous videos regarding proper procedures in the work place.

Another activity during the 01/02 fiscal year was our first annual health and benefit fair which was a huge success. This gave all employees an opportunity to meet and discuss their benefits with the appropriate representatives.

After several negotiation sessions both the Labor's Union and the Firefighter's Union contracts were successfully ratified.

Personnel



### Goals and Objectives

There are significant changes upcoming in the 2003 year in the Florida Retirement System. In addition to the normal pension plan, an investment plan is being offered. Two workshops were scheduled to assist employees in the important decision of which plan meets their retirement needs.

Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	67,761	73,766	75,150	80,737	86,904	92,586
Operating	9,618	31,343	9,260	8,228	8,588	9,250
Capital	-	-	2,593	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 77,379</b>	<b>\$ 105,109</b>	<b>\$ 87,003</b>	<b>\$ 88,964</b>	<b>\$ 95,492</b>	<b>\$ 101,836</b>

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

The Board of County Commissioners' restructuring of county organizations in March 2001 established an Economic Development Office (EDO) to assist with complicated economic development (ED) issues, projects and related ad hoc committees. By creating this department under the county umbrella, sound, efficient management practices and fostering advancement of economic priorities were streamlined. The EDO Director, which during most of this period wore the dual hat of Assistant County Manager, became a fulltime, dedicated position in the latter third of the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

### **Mission Statement**

The Hardee County EDO focus is oriented not to "grow" Hardee County but to diversify our economic base, and recruit quality primary jobs for local citizens, which will provide sustainable economic development, while preserving our quality of life. The EDO screens prospects with these conditions in mind, coordinates all possible assistance in relocation to qualified candidates and provides facilitating support to existing businesses throughout the county and its municipalities.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

This past fiscal year was an exciting, yet indeed challenging time for all of us as we faced an economic slowdown and uncertainties surrounding events of 9-11. Believing in the future of our country and Hardee County, the EDO continued steadfastly in support of the Board of County Commissioners and guidance of the County Manager in "Building a Foundation for Opportunity."

As in all successful endeavors, a plan must be formulated with inherent flexibility and definable goals. Such a development plan was created a couple of years ago by a multitude of civic volunteers and business people during the application "process" for Federal Empowerment Zone designation. Although the desired designation was never realized, their input and selfless service led to the county obtaining Champion Community designation. The designation provides



the county and its municipalities advantages in some grants contingent upon demonstrated progress in benchmarking activities within the county's strategic development plan—our benchmarking was recently brought up to date and approved at State and Federal levels.

Also, earlier in 2001, the county had received the State designation of "Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern" as a method of leveraging available incentives. Using this designation, the county applied in late 2001 for further business incentives available through the Enterprise Zone (EZ) program. In March 2002, the county received notice that its application was approved for two business growth corridors covering

nearly 20 square miles within the county. This EZ is an EDO incentive useful in providing potential for enhancing new business and expansion of existing business. Some benefits available to businesses located within the EZ include State or corporate tax credit for job creation or material acquisition.

A fundamental tenet to ED success is upgraded capacity and reliability of available infrastructure. The strong efforts of the County Commissioners combined with direct County Manager support have focused on initiating infrastructure revitalization such that we have realized significant progress over this fiscal year—roads, power, water, sewer, telecommunications, all are being funded and, to varying degrees, improved day by day. Some elements such as rail and gas access must still be leveraged for potential, however. And, activities are progressing expediently toward expanding wastewater treatment capacity with funding available for a new plant near the municipal airport and another along Highway 17.

Some valuable commercial companies located and began operations in the county this past year including a mulch packaging facility (Seaboard Supply) and an electric generation/distribution plant (Vandolah Power, Inc.)



The county established visibility over the World Wide Web this year in publishing [hardeebusiness.com](http://hardeebusiness.com) as its ED focal point. Also, links for county wide information were addressed at the official State business site [eFlorida.com](http://eFlorida.com) and tourism sites of [flausa.com](http://flausa.com) and [visitflorida.org](http://visitflorida.org).

## **Goals and Objectives**

Looking ahead, we see significant growth opportunities for economic development taking place in Hardee County. The completion of construction for two new waste water treatment plants, access to Sprint DSL high speed internet lines in most business areas of the county and a new telecommunications package switch installed in Wauchula, opening of a South Florida Community College Adjunct Facility, all combined with site selection and future development possibilities of a proposed county industrial park signal determined leadership in creating a strong community foundation.

Work efforts also programmed from the EDO for the coming year include;

- expanded internet business and tourism visibility of Hardee County
- creation of an accessible information database in line with standard economic development practices
- educating and assisting local businesses on available incentives and funding



*Proposed site of cargo based airport  
In Northwest corner of county*

- ad hoc community and private business committee strategic planning in development of a targeted industries recruitment and incentives plan

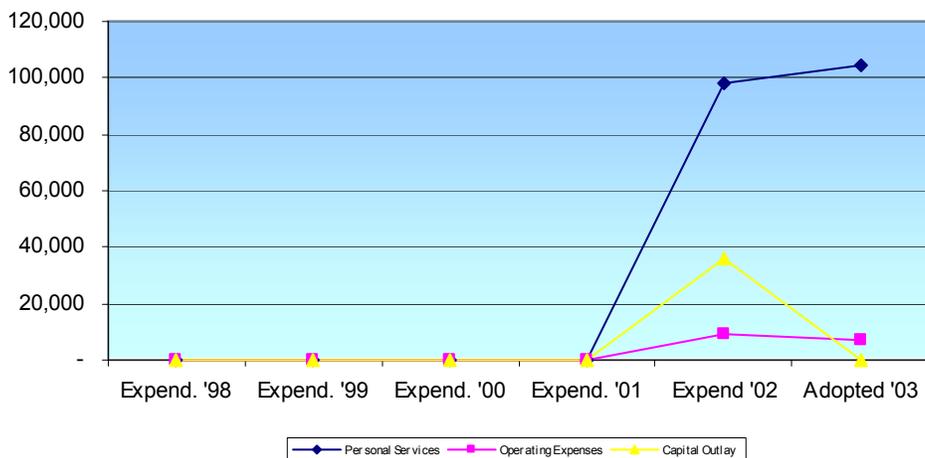
- marketing plans for recreational facilities such as Hardee Lakes and Paynes Creek region
- the ever present possibility of initiating development activities of a cargo based airport.



A prominent aspect to the future economic development of the county is an understanding and supported bond among business people and citizens of the desired community we want to be. The “vision” must be accepted and the message clear in what must be done to achieve the desired goals. The EDO intends to fully use the available economic-development-related ad hoc committees (i.e., Industrial Development Authority, Enterprise Zone Development Authority, Range Cattle Station Steering Committee, Airport Task Force, etc.) and other organizations to define needs and move forward.

The Economic Development Office sees each day as full of new possibilities as we diligently continue our mission, seek out partnerships and alliances with organizations influential in enhancing opportunities for community growth, development, and safety with a focus toward enhancing economic diversity, and share our quest toward “Building a Foundation for Opportunity” in Hardee County.

### Economic Development Department



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	97,919	104,230
Operating	-	-	-	-	9,106	7,235
Capital	-	-	-	-	35,681	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 142,706</b>	<b>\$ 111,465</b>

## **BUILDINGS AND 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 Offices, Animal Control, Hardee County Sheriff's 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 in outlying areas. This Department has undertaken major renovation projects to buildings for office space with in-house personnel, eliminating the need for many contracted services.

### **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.

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 Supervisor, one Executive Secretary, one Electrician/A.C. Specialist, one Labor supervisor, five Custodial Workers, one Groundskeepers, One Maintenance Worker II, one Crew leader, and seven General Maintenance Mechanics. With the additional work and the need to return County and Court



staff to their offices, we have also employed several temporary 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 Courthouse 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. Their labor has proven to be extremely valuable to this department for the continued progression of our construction projects. This crew also works regularly in all our parks where they mow, trim trees, pick up garbage, etc. They also help on a regular basis with 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. Again this year, they have faced monumental tasks, and were successful in fulfilling these demands with a tremendous amount of effort and teamwork. This crew has been faithful and committed to the performance of their duties working many long days and weekends to facilitate the return of Staff to the Courthouse.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

This year has been an extremely busy year for this department. We completed the projects that were continued from 00/01 and began a major renovation project at the Courthouse. We also completed several small building renovations. This was accomplished in addition to our routine maintenance. These projects are as follows: the



West End Addition to the Maintenance Shop was completed which, at the present time, contains Public Works (consisting of the Road and Bridge, Buildings and Grounds, Parks and Recreations, and Engineering Departments). Public Works also provides temporary office space for the Emergency Management department. The installation of the Courthouse Generator and the installation of the roof on the Old Jail Project were also completed.

In January of 2002, it became necessary to relocate Courthouse Staff as a result of the renovations taking place on the

third floor of the Courthouse. This, in turn, lead to the relocation of many County Offices. This relocation of personnel also called for minor renovations in several buildings in order to accommodate the incoming personnel.

The Third Floor Courthouse Renovations were completed this year by C.E.M. Enterprises.

Renovation of the Courthouse First and Second floors began in July by County Staff.

This was an enormous project as both floors were completely demolished and rebuilt. County Staff has been under the leadership of Hunter Floyd, who was appointed to a Temporary Lead position for this project. This project is not yet complete and will continue next year.



The Landfill Recycling Center was renovated this year, as well, with the assistance of Buildings and Grounds.

At the Health Department our maintenance staff completed the installation of equipment, cabinets, counters, and flooring for the new Dental Center. At the Sheriff's Office, Bowen and Son Roofing installed a new roof over the complex, which also required the installation of a drain system, installed by County staff. Building plans were prepared for an addition to the Sheriff's Office.

**Project Amounts for FY 01/02**

P02-21	Public Works	\$	14,219.62
P02-69	Jail Roof	\$	21,880.77
P02-07	Courthouse	\$	1,218,700.99
P02-100	Sheriffs Office	\$	1,200.00
P02-142	Old Jail	\$	14,219.62
P02-145	Courthouse Gen.	\$	4,970.36
P02-173	Courthouse	\$	<u>122,050.22</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,390,355.26</b>



**Non-Routine Maintenance**

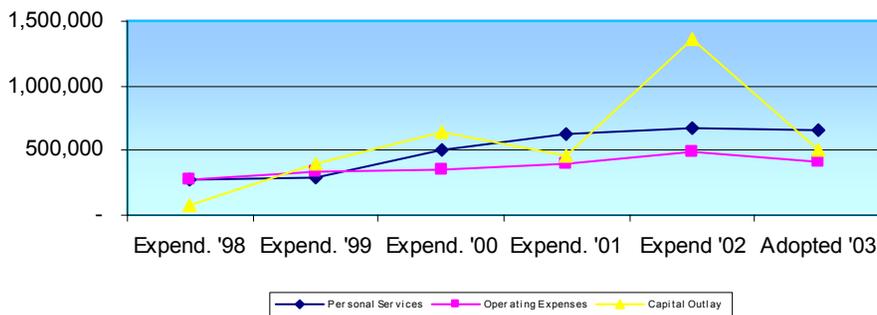
P02-59	Recycling Ctr.	\$	15,225.84
	Courthouse Relocate	\$	107,961.19
	Health Dept Dental	\$	7,300.74
	Purchasing Office	\$	<u>4,564.26</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>135,052.03</b>

renovations of the Courthouse First and Second floors. Upon completion of these renovations, Court and County staff will return to their appointed locations and we will begin the renovation of Annex I. In addition, contingent upon the award of grant funding, we will begin renovations on the outside of the Courthouse. This will include repairing the stucco on the bottom of the Courthouse, replacing the double glass doors on the side entrances with period doors, restoration of the bronze front doors, and installation of replica lights on the front steps. Other projects that directly involve Buildings and Grounds staff are construction of the addition to the Animal Refuge, Hardee Lakes Park and the installation of a sewer/septic system at Pioneer Park.

**Goals and Objectives**

In the coming year we will endeavor to maintain a strong working relationship with the Board of County Commissioners, as well as all other Departments within County Government. We will continue to strive to maintain the morale of our employees at the highest level possible at all times. This, in turn, 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. It is our intention to complete the

**Buildings and Grounds**



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	282,345	290,585	501,026	629,189	676,525	654,051
Operating	275,055	334,141	357,856	394,034	486,018	406,800
Capital	69,108	404,387	648,425	454,729	1,357,260	503,998
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 626,508</b>	<b>\$ 1,029,114</b>	<b>\$1,507,307</b>	<b>\$ 1,477,952</b>	<b>\$ 2,519,803</b>	<b>\$ 1,564,849</b>

## **BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Building and 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 Compre-



hensive 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 businesses/projects permitted in FY 01-02 include:

- South Florida Community College Campus
- Cato's
- Zip's Tobacco
- Dollar Supermarket
- Advanced America
- Hong Kong
- Radio Shack
- Subway
- Nail Logic
- Addition of Dry Plant to Florida Fertilizer
- Mid-Florida Credit Union

- Pizza Hut
- Skating rink (Stenstrom Road)
- Save-A-Lot
- The Palms (farm worker housing on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue)
- Vandolah Wastewater Treatment Plant



***Pizza Hut***



***The Palms***

- Wauchula Hills Wastewater Treatment

The FY 01-02 Budget included Building/Zoning Official, an Office Manager, an Executive Secretary; a Permitting Technician, a Building Inspector and a Code Enforcement Officer.

In FY 01-02 the Building Department issued 1,301 permits and conducted 1,702 field inspections, of which 46 were re-inspections. Inspectors also conducted 20 pre-inspections for mobile homes and over 65 courtesy inspections to determine structural stability and/or repairs necessary to bring the structures up to minimum standard housing code.

The Zoning Department processed requests for Special Exceptions, Exceptions to Policy L1.15 of the "Comp Plan", Major Special Exceptions, Temporary Special Use Permits and Site Development Plan approvals.

There following projects were successfully rezoned:

- Pinnacle Group's 116-unit moderate income apartment complex

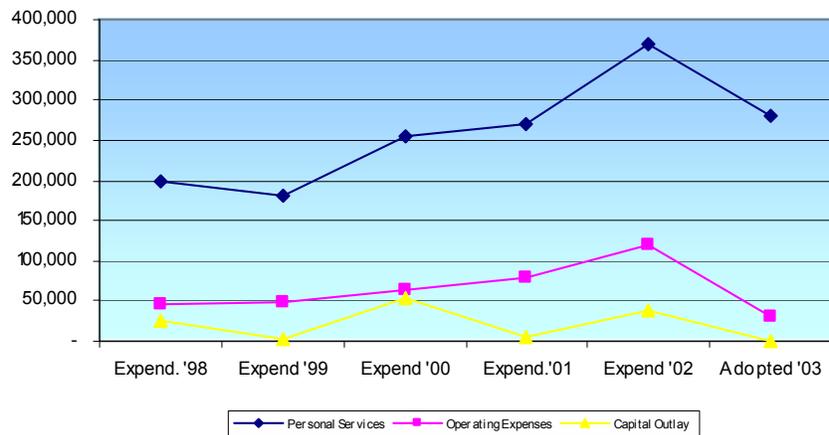
- South Florida Community College campus
- Carlisle's 120-unit low-moderate income apartment complex
- approval of Preliminary Site Development Plan for construction of a mini warehouse and office/retail space complex.
- Nickerson Dairy (new) off 10-Mile Grade.



**Mid-Florida Credit Union**

IN FY 2001-02 the Code Enforcement Officer initiated 481 cases, issued 53 citations, posted 213 door notices, sent 11 cases to Special Master (which generated \$183,250 in property liens), issued 152 stop-work orders, made 491 follow-up inspections and closed 339 cases. \$3,025 in fines were paid from citations and \$2,300 in liens were filed from unpaid fines.

### Building & Zoning



Expenditure Summary	FY 97/98	FY 98/99	FY 99/00	FY 00/01	FY 00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	198,233	180,645	255,922	269,869	368,843	281,284
Operating	46,245	48,691	63,367	79,675	118,745	30,975
Capital	25,568	2,803	53,233	4,855	39,363	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 270,046</b>	<b>\$ 232,138</b>	<b>\$ 372,522</b>	<b>\$ 354,399</b>	<b>\$ 526,951</b>	<b>\$ 312,259</b>

**HARDEE COUNTY  
BUILDING & ZONING  
CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OCTOBER 2001-SEPTEMBER 2002**

		<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>COLLECTED</u>			<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>COLLECTED</u>
BUILDING PERMIT	412	\$	84,117.40	BUILDING / STRUCTURES			
SURCHARGE	225	\$	3,496.17	SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED	15	\$	10,150.97
ELECTRIC PERMIT	531	\$	18,320.20	SINGLE FAMILY ATTACHED	47	\$	34,434.10
PLUMBING PERMIT	156	\$	8,378.80	MANUFACTURED / MOBILE HM	86	\$	19,553.93
MECHANICAL PERMIT	198	\$	11,043.50	CHURCHES / OTHER RELIGIOUS	2	\$	1,037.00
ROOFING PERMIT	280	\$	10,126.00	AMUSEMENT, SOCIAL, RECR.	1	\$	1,495.80
MOBILE HOME /PK MDL.	83	\$	12,015.00	INDUSTRIAL	1	\$	5,295.40
MOBILE HOME ADDTN.	79	\$	2,586.00	OFFICES, BANKS, PROFESSIONAL	1	\$	4,509.04
MOBILE HOME PREINSP.	35	\$	3,500.00	PUBLIC WORKS / UTILITIES	1	\$	3,965.00
COMMERCIAL HOOD	4	\$	199.00	SCHOOLS / OTHER EDUC.	1	\$	1.00
FIRE SUPPRESSION	3	\$	135.00	STORES / CUSTOMER SERV.	2	\$	3,607.95
FIRE SPRINKLER	2	\$	149.00	OTHER NON-RESIDENTIAL BLDG.	14	\$	2,766.78
MISC. PERMIT	72	\$	2,343.00	STRUCTURES NOT BLDG.	135	\$	12,628.96
LATE FEES / PENALTIES	21	\$	1,050.00	RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS	499	\$	27,042.82
DOUBLE PERMIT FEES	20	\$	1,081.72	NON-RESIDENTIAL ADDTNS.	237	\$	25,729.48
GAS PERMIT	22	\$	660.00	MOBILE HOME ADDITIONS	217	\$	25,729.48
ALARM PERMIT	54	\$	3,645.00	HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONAL	15	\$	8,111.00
PLANS REVIEW FEE	485	\$	26,045.00	2 FAMILY BUILDING	2	\$	688.00
RESIDUALS LAND SPRD.	5	\$	2,211.00	3 & 4 FAMILY BUILDING	46	\$	16,984.29
DEMOLITION PERMIT	7	\$	350.00	SERVICE STATIONS & REP. GAR.	1	\$	366.01
REINSPECTION FEES	3	\$	60.00				
MISC. (COPIES, ETC.)	9	\$	605.00	DEMOLITIONS S/F RESIDENCES			
SWIMMING POOL	11	\$	1,045.00	BUILDING	4	\$	200.00
SPECIAL EXCEPTION	9	\$	2,250.00	HOUSING UNIT	3	\$	150.00
VARIANCE	1	\$	200.00				
RE-ZONE	3	\$	900.00	TOTAL PERMITS:	1301		
EXCEPT. TO POLICY	27	\$	7,144.00				
TEMP. SPECIAL USE	3	\$	350.00	TOTAL VALUATION OF CONSTRUCTION			
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1		\$	150.00	\$26,138,727.09			
MINOR S/D	26	\$	2,972.00	INDIVIDUAL PERMITS AUTHORIZING			
SPEC. MASTER ADM.	5	\$	750.00	CONSTRUCTION VALUED AT \$500,000+	7	\$	10,603,049.00
FIRE REVIEW	10	\$	750.00				
COMPETENCY CARDS	139	\$	6,475.00				
COMP CARD LATE FEES	22	\$	183.75				
INSPECTIONS / UNSAFE BUILDING ABATEMENT—COW			-				
<b>TOTAL FEES COLLECTED:</b>			<b><u>\$215,287.14</u></b>				

BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	COUNTY	1,275
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	COUNTY	\$ 215,287.14
BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	CITY B.G.	119
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	CITY B.G.	\$ 9,309.10
BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	COW	225
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	COW	\$ 65,716.18
BLDG. INSPECTIONS PERFORMED:	TOWN ZS	63
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	TOWN ZS	\$ 8,909.83
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS:</b>	<b>1,702</b> (including courtesy insp.)	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$299,222.25</b>	

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Office of Community Development was developed in October 1997. This newly developed department was a spin-off of the Building and Zoning Department, which formerly administered the housing grants for Hardee County. As the importance of new infrastructure was recognized, so too was the need for further grant funding to ensure the growth of our community. Since our development, several grants have successfully been obtained to achieve the goals set forth by the Board of County Commissioners. Further, in most instances, the administrative expenses of this department are offset by grant funds.



### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Office of Community Development is to further develop the infrastructure within our community and to improve the quality of life for the low-and moderate-income citizens of Hardee County through grant funded programs.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

#### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

A CDBG Housing Grant in the amount of \$750,000 was awarded to OCD in January 2002. The grant targets very low to moderate income families. Due to that funding and under the administration of OCD, 29 single-family homes will be rehabilitated by January 2004.

#### **Hardee County Health Care Task Force**

During FY 01-02, OCD assisted in submitting a Primary Care Challenge Grant to meet the needs of the medically under-

served citizens within our community. In December 2002, Hardee county was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$103,000, with the option to renew for two additional years, provided there is available funding from the State.

#### **Hardee County Recreational Complex**

An application for assistance through the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) has been submitted. Upon approval, \$200,000 will be granted to repair the swimming pool, playground, and pool building, and renovate all restrooms at the Complex in accordance with ADA guidelines. Notification of funding is anticipated in April 2003.



#### **Courthouse Renovations**

OCD applied to the Division of Historic Preservation for a grant to eliminate further deterioration and to restore the courthouse to its original beauty.

**Before**



**After**



The County was

awarded a \$350,000 grant. The restoration activities began in October 2001. OCD has administered this project and completion is projected for February 2003.

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

The County currently receives a yearly allotment from the Community Services Block Grant, administered through the Manatee Opportunity Council (MOC). The allotment for FY 01/02 was \$19,168. The Board has designated that 75% of these funds be designated for HOPE of Hardee and the remaining 25% to Redlands Christian Migrant Association. The Director of Community Development, Janet Gilliard, has been designated to serve on the MOC Board of Directors as Hardee County's representative.

**Pioneer Park Animal Refuge**

During FY 01/02, OCD closed out two FRDAP grants for the new Pioneer Park Animal Refuge. Both grants represented an award of \$200,000 with a one-for-one match requirement. In October 2001 OCD submitted another FRDAP application to fund the next phase of construction to provide a bird aviary and to further enhance several of the existing animal enclosures. In June, 2002 we were awarded \$75,000 and construction is due to begin in January, 2003.



*Animal Refuge*

**Hardee Lakes Park**

In October 2000, OCD submitted 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. OCD received confirmation of a grant award in January 2002. This grant is also for the development of the Hardee Lakes project.

During FY 01/02, our commencement documentation was prepared for the FRDAP and LWCF grant. Upon approval from the State, construction should begin in the spring of 2003.



*Hardee Lakes*

**Housing Programs - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)**

Under the Housing Assistance Plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, the program provides 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.

	Ship	Yr 01-02	Units to date
Rehabilitation		34	246
<b>Emergency</b>		34	366
<b>Home Purchase</b>		14	68

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 2001/2002 and program to date.

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 any immediate health and safety hazard such as water line breaks, wiring or circuit breaker hazards, termite or rotted joist repairs, etc. In general,

all **Before** 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 **After** housing units to accommodate physically challenged household members. All modifications made are in accordance with ADA guidelines.

The Home Ownership Assistance Program provides \$5,000 towards down payment and closing cost assistance for first time home buyers that qualify under the program guidelines.



**Economic Development - Vandolah Road Sewer Service Area**

During FY 00/01 OCD submitted a Community Development Block Grant application for Economic Development requesting \$750,000 to assist with the development of a waste water treatment plant for Florida Institute of 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 treatment plant 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.

During FY 01/02, construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant began. Once complete, the plant will have the capacity to treat 75,000 gallons per day. Despite all the delays caused by excessive rains, the plant should be complete and fully operational by summer 2003.



**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

From time to time, clients apply for assistance through our office when they do not qualify for any of our programs. Several factors could exist to cause disqualification. For instance, mobile homes are not covered by our programs, and our CDBG program only encompasses houses outside of the city limits.

**Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

Clients needing new windows and doors that do not qualify under our programs are directed to Centro Campesino. This is an indirect service of our office



as we act as the liaison between the client and the funding agency. We assist clients with the application process and we assist with coordinating the rehabilitation of the dwelling.

**Low Income Emergency Home Repair Program (LEHRP)**

This is another program that is directed to Centro Campesino. This program gives high priority to persons with disabilities and the elderly and covers structural repair, ceiling repair,

electrical repairs, handrails, wheelchair ramps, plumbing, etc. Again, clients that do not qualify for our programs are directed here to address these needs.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

This program assists our low income clients with their monthly energy bills in times of financial crisis. This is an annual program that assists with both heating and cooling bills. This is another indirect service of our office as we direct the client to Polk County Opportunity Council, and we act as their liaison.

Each of these three programs, WAP, LEHRP and LHEAP, are federally funded and administered by the Department of Community Affairs. They are coordinated through a network of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. OCD also coordinates the use of our office space for other community services to meet the needs of our clientele. These efforts are coordinated with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for mortgage and housing repair assistance, Legal Aid Society for land use issues, support teams, etc.

**Goals and Objectives**

OCD’s goal for 2003 is to pursue additional grant funding to further develop our community. Below are projects that we have targeted to ascertain grant funding for:

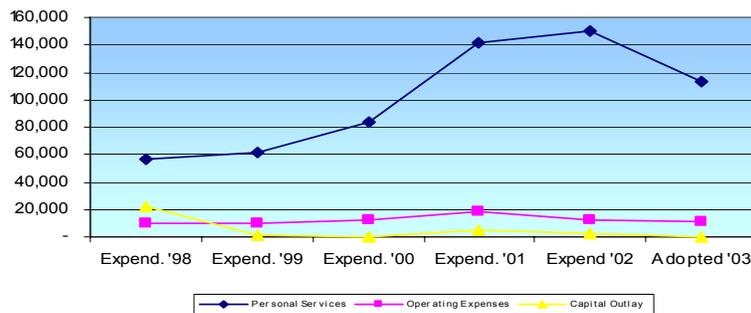
- Development of a soccer field
- Development of non-motorized trail for Hardee Lakes
- Passenger van for 4H
- Health Care assistance for Health Care Task Force
- Operating Costs for Cracker Trail Museum
- Completion of Courthouse Renovations
- AGAPE Homeless Mission

To ensure that we meet our goals, we will employ a full-time grants coordinator to pursue funding through federal, state and private funds. This employee will also coordinate with other departments to create a unified grant application process.

OCD will also research and compile an assessment of where the greater need lies within our county, whether it be housing needs or neighborhood revitalization needs. As only one area can be targeted for a CDBG grant cycle, once determined, OCD will apply for additional funding as directed by the Board of County Commissioners.

OCD will be restructuring existing grant programs to simplify the application process to ensure that our programs are more uniform and accessible to our clients for their housing repair needs.

**Community Development**



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	56,913	61,500	83,985	141,620	149,664	113,587
Operating	10,092	10,311	12,704	18,195	11,890	11,600
Capital	22,510	909	180	4,741	2,149	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 89,515</b>	<b>\$ 72,720</b>	<b>\$ 96,869</b>	<b>\$ 164,556</b>	<b>\$ 163,703</b>	<b>\$ 125,187</b>

## **PARKS AND RECREATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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 and recreationally developed areas within 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 people both within and outside 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 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration was held this year in conjunction with the grand opening of the of the H a r d e e County Animal Refuge. The people of the community were able to 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, without 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 animals 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, 3 deer, and 5 turkeys. The animals are in a natural habitat, which has proven to be advantageous to their mental and physical welfare.

This year we were able to install new play ground 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 created, and will continue to create, a great deal of enjoyment for the children of our community as well as those visiting from surrounding areas.



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

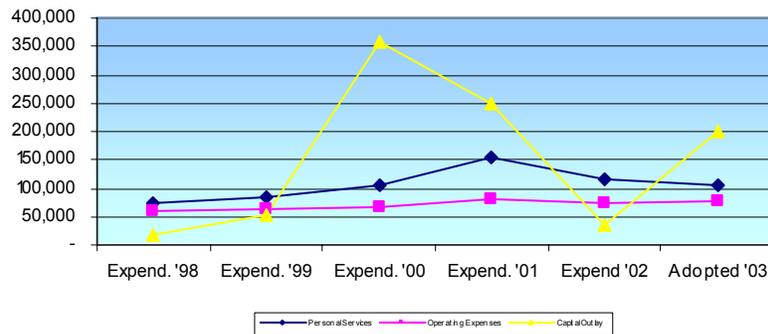
Several years ago Hardee County acquired 1200 acres of land and will have an opportunity in the upcoming year to develop a new park in the Fort Green area (reclaimed phosphate land was donated by IMC).



### Goals and Objectives

At Pioneer Park plans are to install a new sewer line that will link the park to the Town of Zolfo Springs. 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	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	73,227	82,580	105,844	153,420	115,612	105,438
Operating	60,587	62,097	68,269	81,776	74,571	77,500
Capital	17,739	51,443	357,904	248,616	35,873	200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 151,553</b>	<b>\$ 196,120</b>	<b>\$ 532,017</b>	<b>\$ 483,811</b>	<b>\$ 226,056</b>	<b>\$ 382,938</b>

## **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

F.S. 1998

292.11

### **County and City Veteran Service Officer**

(1) Each board of county commissioners may employ a county veteran service officer; provide office space, clerical assistance, and the necessary supplies incidental to providing and maintaining a county service officer; and pay said expenses and salaries from the moneys hereinafter provided for. The governing body of any city may employ a city veteran service officer; provide such office space, clerical assistance, and supplies; and pay expenses and salaries. A county or city veteran service officer must be a veteran who served as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of war, as defined in Title 38, U.S.C.; (FN1) who served at least 18 months' active duty; in the Armed Forces; and who was separated from such service under honorable conditions, or the surviving spouse of any such veteran. Any honorably discharged wartime veteran who was so discharged for service-connected or aggravated medical reasons before serving 18 months of active duty, who completed a tour of duty other than active duty for training, regardless of the length of the tour; or who satisfied his or her military obligation in a manner other than active duty for training or reserve duty shall be eligible for employment as a county or city veteran service officer. Every county or city veteran service officer, in order to be eligible for employment as a county or city veteran service officer, shall have a 2-year degree from an accredited university, college, or community college or a high school degree or equivalency diploma and 4 years of administrative experi-



## **SERVICE OFFICER – VETERANS' COUNSELORS 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.

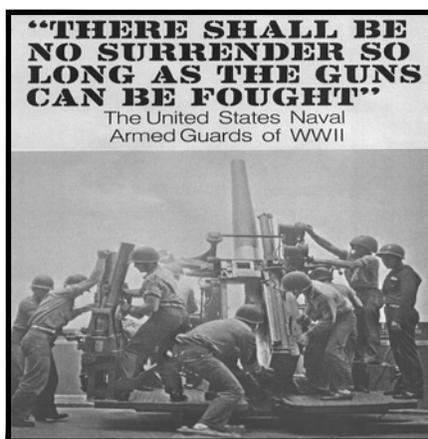
### **Mission Statement**

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 380 Veterans' and/or dependents.
2. Prepared 2,063 documents pertaining to claims and/or supporting documents justifying claims.
3. Phone calls in/out totaled 2,280.
4. Attended four meetings with Congressional Caseworkers at Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center.
5. Attended County Veterans Service Officer Spring & Fall Training Conferences.
6. Attended ten (American Legion Meetings.



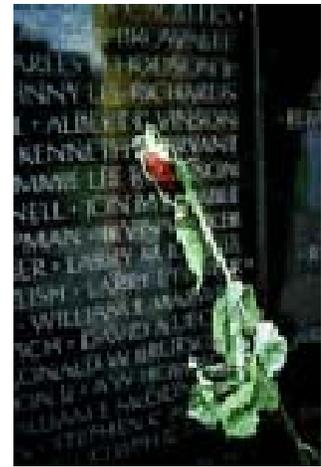
Veterans Service Office is also responsible for bimonthly distribution of commodities.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) has a contract with Hardee County to distribute commodities.

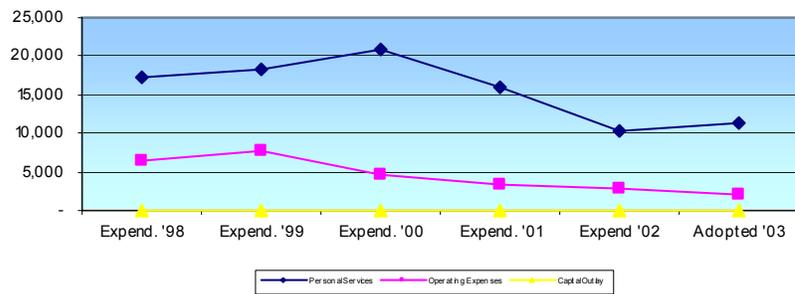
As the administering agency for TEFAP, this office is responsible for ordering, allocating and ensuring accountability for all TEFAP commodities. We also handle reimbursement request for expenses, where applicable. The annual contract term is from October 1 through September 30 each fiscal year.

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.



## Veterans



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	17,160	18,360	20,886	16,053	10,424	11,370
Operating	6,385	7,644	4,539	3,252	2,787	2,050
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,545</b>	<b>\$ 26,004</b>	<b>\$ 25,425</b>	<b>\$ 19,305</b>	<b>\$ 13,211</b>	<b>\$ 13,420</b>

## **MINING DEPARTMENT**

The Mining Department was formed in 1999. With the inception of this newly formed department came staffing with a stronger outlook for industry compliance with Hardee County Regulations.



Beginning in April of 2002 and completed in August of 2002, the Mining Department was restructured with the addition of two Permitting Specialists (The Mining Department previously consisting of the Mining Coordinator position only).

The current staff consists of a Mining Coordinator, two Permitting Specialists, and an Executive Secretary. This department reports to the Director of Planning and Development.

### **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of this department to protect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Hardee County while safeguarding the quality of our land, water, air and help ensure long-term ecological, social and economic benefits; the Mining Department also promotes coordination with other local, state and federal agencies to assure timely and quality reclamation of land through the regulation of the phosphate mining industry.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

The Mining Department staff has spent a great deal of time reviewing the Ona Mine Consolidated Development Application,

responses, and the Master Mining Plan (MMP). We have completed this review, with Hardee County as the main focus, and our goal is to ensure that land quality is restored behind the dragline.

With the focus of placing Hardee County first, the Department has begun to work with the phosphate companies to assure more timely reclamation as well as assuring that specific reclamation plans are beneficial to Hardee County's economic development.

An example of our focus is the coordinated change in the reclamation plan in the area of 663/Ollie Roberts Road. This plan will provide Land/Lake Reclamation which will be accelerated. The end product will be a site that is both attractive to residential mixed use and/or commercial development.

Additionally, the Mining Department began to coordinate and communicate with other local, state, and federal regulatory agencies. The Mining Department staff began in intensive review of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council's Cumulative Impact Study.



*CF's R8 Hay Field Experiment 2002*

The Hardee County Mining Department has continued to coordinate activities with other departments within the county. For example:

1. Through coordination with the GIS Department and utilization of their mapping technology the Mining Department has been able to develop the following:

- A Countywide map illustrating all the mine lands in a GIS database.
  - An initial proposed no-clay corridor.
  - A wildlife and vegetation map utilizing our survey results.
  - Assembly of a map illustrating phosphate company land ownership.
2. The Mining Department provided more accurate and current data and information to the Hardee County Property Appraiser's office.

The Mining Department also conducts investigations which may be complaint-driven by citizens of Hardee County. Examples of this are:

1. We were the lead investigators in the breach of a clay containment area within the Peace River floodplain which discharged phosphatic effluents into the Peace River flowing into Hardee County.
2. The investigation of the potential setback violations by CF Industries on Highway 62 brought the proposal of CF Industries, Inc. to implement an accelerated reclamation plan for this area.
3. The investigation of a burial site on IMC property in the area of the intersection of 663 and 664 which revealed no site specific evidence of a burial site.

The Mining Department has made a concerted effort to educate the citizens of Hardee County through numerous civic presentations. Additionally, a compilation of phosphate resource information such as news articles, prior Ordinances, and Land Development Regulations, (LDR's), and past Development of Regional Impacts, (DRI's) have been organized.

The information this department acquires creates an understanding of the County's intent, historical relationship and historical promises related to mining, and serves as a useful tool for the public.

Other 2001/2002 activities and accomplishments include:

- Completion and submission of review issues to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, registration of Hardee County's concerns related to the Ona Development of Regional Impact.

- Coordination with DEP in developing a more timely notification process when phosphate spills occur.
- Certification from Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and dam inspection certification.
- Organization of office filing system in a systematic manner to enable staff and the public to gather information more efficiently.

Working with the phosphate industry to ensure that the County has accurate and current mining plans by requesting that all companies provide an up to date Master Mining Plan and requiring that this plan be submitted in accordance with the Hardee County Mining Ordinance.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The Mining Department currently has five goals:

**Goal 1:** Monitoring the effects on the environment caused by mining.

Objective 1. Obtaining water sampling certification.

Objective 2. Conducting water sampling in areas that are affected by the phosphate industry.

Objective 3. Continuing to conduct monthly dam inspections of all clay waste disposal areas within the County.

**Goal 2:** Ensuring timely reporting of the results of monitoring and mining.

Objective 1. Continuing to oversee that accurate and useful monitoring is conducted by the industry.

Objective 2. Continuing to coordinate with regulatory agencies concerning monitoring results and inspection reports.

**Goal 3:** Recommendation of revisions to existing plans relating to mining as necessary to ensure the use of "best management practices" and developing technology for the control of pollution and other adverse impacts of such activities.

Objective 1. Continuing to research and investigate developing technology of alternatives for mining and reclamation compared to the existing practices.

**Goal 4:** Ensuring that reclamation of the affected areas contributes to the development of economic diversity.

Objective 1. Continuing to review the phosphate companies mining units to determine whether or not they are contributory to economic diversity.

Objective 2. In coordination with the GIS Department, mapping each stage of reclamation for each mining company.

Objective 3. Coordination with the individual mining companies to ensure that the County has accurate and up to date master mining plans.

Objective 4. Continuing to coordinate with each company and all regulatory agencies prior to initiation of reclamation and during the creation of each reclamation area.

Objective 5. Inspect all released reclamation units and ensure that success criteria is maintained.

Objective 6. Ensuring that the proper procedures are followed for the release of reclaimed lands.

**Goal 5:** Ensuring that it is in the public interest of the citizens of Hardee County to allow specific mining activity.

Objective 1. Utilization of the Land Suitability Index to assist in determining the value and contribution of post mining soils to the economy and future growth of Hardee County and to further assist in determining the lasting effects on soils and future uses thereof as a result of mining and reclamation.

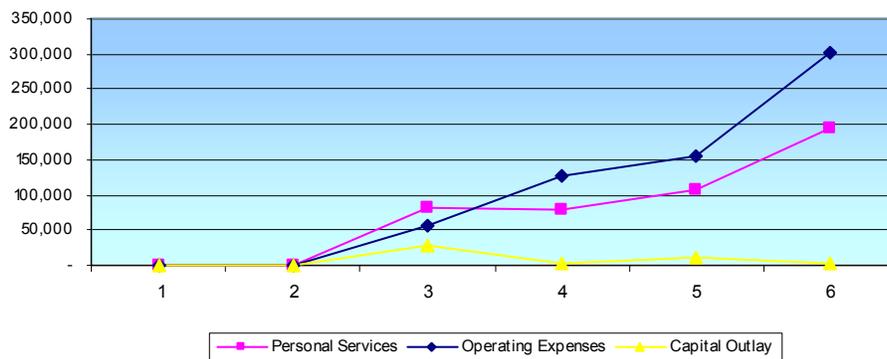
Objective 2. Continuing to assess whether the current Mining Ordinance, Land Development Regulations and Comprehensive Plan are being adhered to.

Objective 3. Drafting of a “New” Mining Ordinance.

Objective 4. Continuing to educate the citizens of Hardee County.

Objective 5. Assisting the Director of Planning and Development with the completion of the Staff Report for the Ona DRI.

### Mining



\* Expenses of the Mining Department are funded through Mining Fees paid by phosphate companies

Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	-	-	80,973	79,335	107,905	196,166
Operating	-	-	56,663	126,338	156,127	300,896
Capital	-	-	28,034	2,717	10,227	3,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 165,670</b>	<b>\$ 208,391</b>	<b>\$ 274,259</b>	<b>\$ 500,562</b>



## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

Emergency Management is an ALL HAZARDS department responsible for the Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery of all types of natural and man-made incidents. This department is also responsible for Emergency Management in Wauchula, Zolfo Springs and Bowling Green. Planning for wind events, large fires, hazmat, terrorism, agricultural incidents, weather events and everything in between is the primary role of our department. Interaction with all local municipalities is crucial to ensure that all agencies involved in the incident are working on the same plan.

The department currently has an Emergency Management Director, who also serves as Director of Public Safety, and one Executive Secretary.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Emergency Management Department 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**

During the past year, the Emergency Management Department has been very active. We have been involved in a

variety of incidents ranging from 62,000 pounds of chemicals on fire to white powder incidents. Planning has taken a new sense of priority. Due to the events of 9/11, Emergency Management has been in high gear.



### **Mitigation:**

*The acts of reducing or eliminating the effects of an event.*

That's exactly what we did. Plenty of time was spent on reducing the effects of flooding, hurricanes, tornados, agriculture events, wildfires and terrorism. The new Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) was created and is being reviewed for acceptance by the State Department of Emergency Management and FEMA. This document gives direction for the entire County on how to eliminate or reduce the damage from a catastrophic event. The LMS also provides the County and City Administrators with a tool to guide safe future growth of our community.

The Hazmat Plan was also another large accomplishment for the department. With the acceptance of the this plan, all agencies involved in a Hazmat incident will comply to the standards set by this plan. This plan ensures that there is no freelancing by any given department. We are able to control the incident with a proven set of Standard Operating Procedures.

Other Mitigation Projects Include:

- Canker Prevention
- Foot and Mouth Disease Recognition
- River Monitoring and Awareness
- Family Disaster Plans

- Medical Care Facility Disaster Plans
- 100% inspections of sites with hazardous Materials (Extremely Hazardous Substances)
- Monitoring of Hazardous Materials being transported through Hardee County
- Shutter Retrofit of 2 Schools and 4 Schools Pending.



**Preparedness:**

***Planning and training how to respond in case an emergency or disaster occurs and working to increase resources available to respond effectively.***

Emergency Management spent considerable time in this area for the year 2002. The creation of an County Operational Hazmat Team would be considered the milestone of this phase of Emergency Management. Hardee County is now capable of handling our own Hazmat incidents and reducing the reliance of out-of-County teams.

Several thousand training man-hours were needed to create the team. The team consist of County employees from Emergency Management, Fire Rescue, Public Works and Municipal Law Enforcement. Each team member had to endure 2 months of rigorous training to meet the minimum standards set by the Federal Government, State, Emergency Management and Fire Rescue. The train

ing completed with a Five County Bio-terrorism Hazmat training exercise in Okeechobee County.

Based on world events, Emergency Management has been busy with the unfortunate task of planning for terrorism events. We have received considerable assistance from the State and Federal levels to prepare our County. We have received unprecedented support from all of the Departments, Agencies and Municipalities within Hardee County. Also, we are participants in the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Task Force. This gives our County full support from larger systems if the need arise.

**Other Preparedness Projects Include:**

- Hazmat Tabletop Exercises
- Chlorine Hazmat Exercise
- Foot and Mouth Tabletop Exercise
- Smallpox Tabletop Exercise
- LMS Revision
- CEMP Revision
- Emergency Management Training of 10 County Employees
- Teacher Awareness
- Hardee County Hurricane Expo
- Creation of Citizen Corps
- Flood Preparedness
- All municipalities are now on the State-wide Mutual Aid Plan
- Part of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Mutual Aid Response Plan.



**Response:**

*Activities during and immediately follow a disaster. They are designed to provide emergency assistance to victims of the event and reduce the likelihood of secondary damage.*

Emergency Management along with Fire Rescue and Law Enforcement, responded to a multitude of calls. The primary role of Emergency Management was to support the first responders. That mission was accomplished on several occasions. We were able to support and provide for additional man-power and equipment on some of the larger incidents within the County. Assistance was also rendered to Law Enforcement in several area, securing communications being the primary goal.



**Goals and Objectives**

**Recovery:**

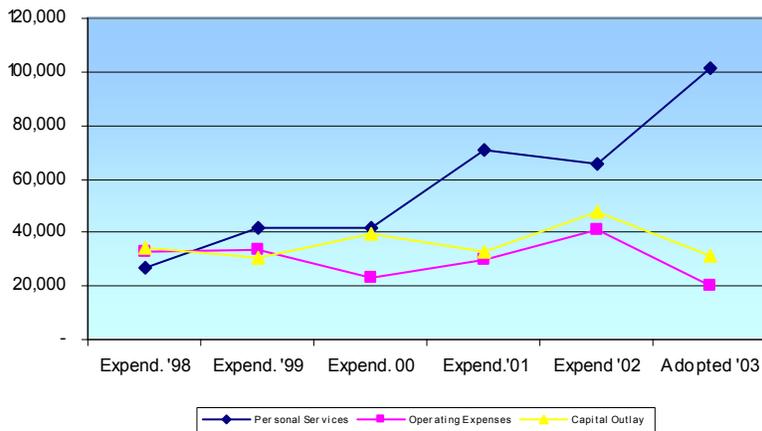
*Return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards. Long term recovery is completed when the entire area is completely redeveloped, either as it was in the past or for entirely new purposes that are less disaster-prone.*

Fortunately our recovery efforts were on a small scale. Sandbags, minor flooding issues and direction.

Assisting citizens that were burned out of their homes was the toughest mission for the year. With help and cooperation of the American Red Cross and the Fire Department, all and every request for recovery assistance was honored.

- Prepare for prompt and efficient response and recovery activities to protect lives and property affected by emergencies
- Respond to emergencies using all systems, plans, and resources necessary to preserve and protect the health, safety and well being of the citizens of Hardee County.
- Recover from emergencies by the rapid and orderly implementation of restoration and rehabilitation programs fro the people and property affected from emergencies.

Emergency Management is looking for another banner year. The plans and visions that are in place will ensure that Hardee County will be a much safer place to live.



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	26,694	41,617	41,639	70,827	65,543	101,202
Operating	33,072	33,592	22,841	29,807	41,335	20,125
Capital	34,577	30,568	39,339	32,647	47,432	31,173
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 94,343</b>	<b>\$ 105,777</b>	<b>\$ 103,819</b>	<b>\$ 133,281</b>	<b>\$ 154,310</b>	<b>\$ 152,500</b>

## **HARDEE COUNTY EXTENSION**

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 ensure 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/4-H agent, Para-professional Extension Program Assistant and one full-time Administrative 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 research-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.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

Over one hundred seventy 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
- Hay, Forage and Grazing Options
- Water Quality BMP's for Cow-calf producers
- Mole Cricket Control Field Day
- 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 (8 clubs meeting monthly)
- Annual 4-H Workshop and Demonstration Event



*Lockie Gary, Extension Agent, instructing Beef Cattle Management Class*

- 4-H Shooting Sports
- 4-H Dog Obedience Program

The multi-county citrus agent has conducted education programs in the following areas:

- Citrus Production School
- Pesticide License Review (6 per year)
- Worker Protection Standards Training (3)
- Pesticide Safety for Ag Workers
- Equipment Safety Training (2)
- Pesticide Handler Safety Training
- Sprayer Program & Demonstration
- Tractor Driver Safety
- WPS – Train the Trainer

The multi-county dairy agent has conducted programs in the following areas:

- Dairy Herd Business Analysis
- Dairy Quiz Bowl Training

The County Extension Service conducted the third annual Hardee County Leadership School with thirteen participants. It is anticipated that this school will be continued with enrollment limited to 20 persons per session.

The 4-H program has enjoyed continued growth with enrollment up by 24% for a total membership of 301 youth and 83 adult volunteers working directly with the members. The 4-H Poultry program held its first show at the 2002 HC Fair with 17 4-H'ers participating.

Awards received were the Spirit of the Family Award presented by United Way for being the most family friendly organization in Hardee County. The 2002 Volunteer Organization of the Year Award was presented to Hardee County 4-H by the Hardee County Chamber of Commerce.



Carolyn Wyatt, Extension Agent teaching 4-H class

**Goals and Objectives**

- Continue to expand the Hardee Leadership School teaching leadership concepts to 20 county residents per session.
- Provide nutrition education programs to individuals and families from pre-school to adults in Hardee County.

- Teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at-risk girls about Teen Pregnancy Prevention through a weekly after-school program.
- Teach a monthly basic financial management program, the Budget Box, to WAGES clients in the Welfare-To-Work program at SFCC.



Lockie Gary teaching Reproductions Lab to future animal scientists

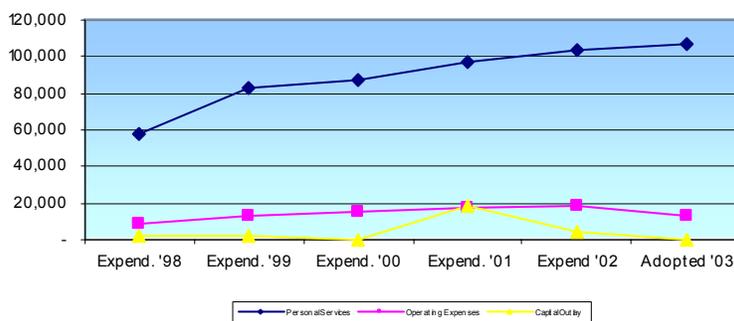
The Extension staff and faculty continue to provide a high level of service in all areas of programming offered by IFAS and the University of Florida.

In the past year:

- Responded to and provided information for over 3200 telephone clients
- Service to 650 walk-in clients
- Distribution of 2850 publications
- 345 on-site visits by agents and staff

The Extension office staff produces monthly newsletters in the areas of Agriculture/Beef, Citrus and Family and Consumer Sciences with a monthly circulation of 1240, and a 4-H Newsletter produced on an as needed basis with a circulation of 350.

**County Extension**



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	58,181	82,847	87,444	96,751	104,042	107,091
Operating	8,953	13,325	15,333	17,352	18,141	13,100
Capital	1,908	1,741	-	18,878	4,579	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 69,042</b>	<b>\$ 97,913</b>	<b>\$ 102,777</b>	<b>\$ 132,981</b>	<b>\$ 126,762</b>	<b>\$ 120,191</b>

## **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 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 participated in the Tri-County Land Judging Contest with Charlotte and DeSoto counties, held in Charlotte County, 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 270 customers, with 5337 acres planned to resource management system, 441 acres planned to cultivated cropland, 4000 acres applied to resource management system, and 3565 acres applied to grazing land.

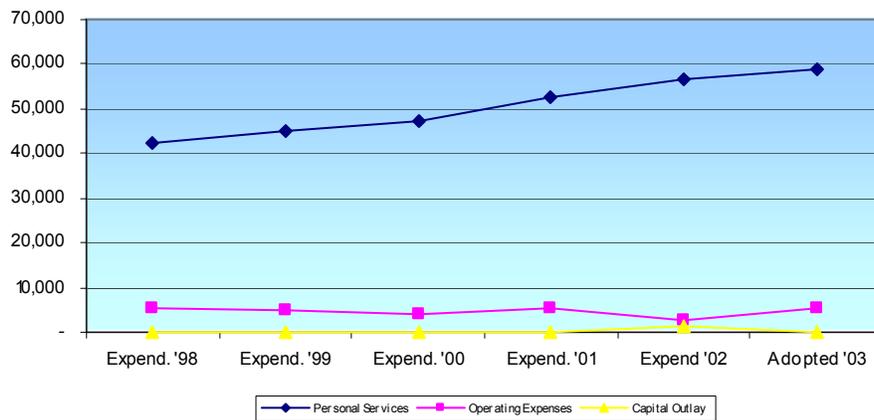
Other conservation treatments were irrigation management 2,734 acres, nutrient management 2,074 acres, prescribed grazing 3,000 acres, wildlife habitat management 1,038 acres, field borders 246 acres, and 1,965 acres of pest management systems.

Financial assistance provided to local farmers for conservation treatment by the USDA was \$140,000.

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



### Soil Conservation



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	42,391	44,984	47,303	52,650	56,660	58,640
Operating	5,136	4,833	4,151	5,375	2,837	5,375
Capital	200	-	-	-	1,553	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 47,727</b>	<b>\$ 49,817</b>	<b>\$ 51,454</b>	<b>\$ 58,026</b>	<b>\$ 61,050</b>	<b>\$ 64,015</b>

## **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

### **Mission Statement**

The primary role of the Purchasing Department is to serve all departments under the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that proper purchasing procedures are followed according to County & State laws. Our purchasing staff is responsible for obtaining the best and most competitive price with public funds for purchasing supplies, equipment, materials and ser-



vices. We must deal fairly and consistently while developing a working relationship with all vendors, suppliers, and contractors and to maintain a current vendor file deleting those vendors who do not respond or deliver as requested. The department maintains the present inventory in the stockroom and improves on it as needed.



### **Activities and Accomplishments**

There are presently over 3000 items



in the stockroom with a value of \$290,392.76. The department locates, orders, receives and issues goods and services ordered by other departments as needed. Additionally, the Purchasing Department is responsible for informing the Accounting Office when a purchase order is complete and invoices are ready for payment.



Purchasing maintains a current list of all buildings and properties owned by Hardee County. We purchase and track capital improvements for the Board of County Commissioners. This includes issuing 26 Invitations to Bid and Request for Proposals, overseeing pre-bid meetings, bid openings, tabulations, issuing purchase orders and all pertinent paper work. This is in addition to the day-to-day purchases for the different departments.

We currently have four employees: Purchasing Agent, Buyer, Purchasing Specialist, and Stores Manager.

In FY 01/02, with the help of Buildings and Grounds crews, our office has been completely renovated with all new furniture. We also linked our internet through the GIS Department.

### Goals and Objectives

In FY 02/03 we are working on issuing a new purchasing manual. We have written the policy and approved a procedure for the use of procurement cards which is being implemented this budget year. We will continue to be as efficient and knowledgeable as possible for the benefit of Hardee County.

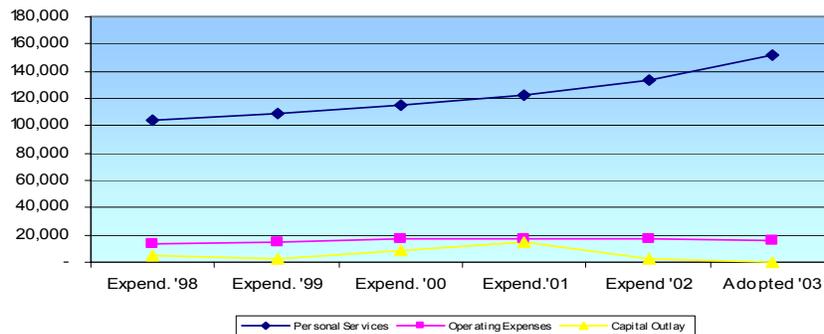
### PURCHASE ORDERS, REQUISITIONS, AND INVOICES PROCESSED FY 01/02:

*AVERAGE PER MONTH	
PURCHASE ORDERS	237.91*
REQUISITIONS	308.00*
INVOICES	929.45*

### FIXED ASSETS PURCHASED UNDER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FY 01/02:

BOOKS	\$ 27,791.20
LAND/BLDGS	\$2,651,341.85
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$1,025,105.68
EQUIPMENT	\$1,231,456.84
DISPOSALS	\$ -210,303.18
TOTAL	\$4,725,392.39

### Purchasing



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	103,962	108,795	115,464	122,085	133,626	152,431
Operating	12,950	14,294	17,210	17,078	17,359	16,500
Capital	4,399	2,365	8,560	14,690	2,517	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 121,311</b>	<b>\$ 125,454</b>	<b>\$ 141,234</b>	<b>\$ 153,852</b>	<b>\$ 153,502</b>	<b>\$ 168,931</b>

## **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 in 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**

Children's programming remains a priority of library staff. Weekly story hours are held for preschoolers. Programs are available for home-school youngsters and elementary school classes in the library. The summer Florida Library Youth Program provides a unique approach to reading and library activities.

Outreach to our citizens continued with two programs from State Library Grant funds. The Born-to-Read grant, designed for teaching the importance of reading to infants and young children, was awarded again this year. We provided guest speakers and programs to benefit and 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.

The other grant program, Graying the Net, provided seniors pertinent and hands-on information in the use of computers. A portable lab consisting of twelve laptop computers generated a tremendous response from patrons who benefited from this program. This portable lab has replaced outdated computers in the Learning Center. Classes in basic and advanced use of computers are now taught in the Meeting Room.



A new Reference Room was created from the former Learning Center, providing a large open area to house specialty materials and serial volumes. This room also houses back issues of the Herald Advocate in which a monthly column, Linger at the Library, provides information about library functions, materials and services.

The library automation system was updated to allow patrons access to the library from home to review their accounts, reserve and renew materials through the web site [www.heartlineweb.org](http://www.heartlineweb.org).

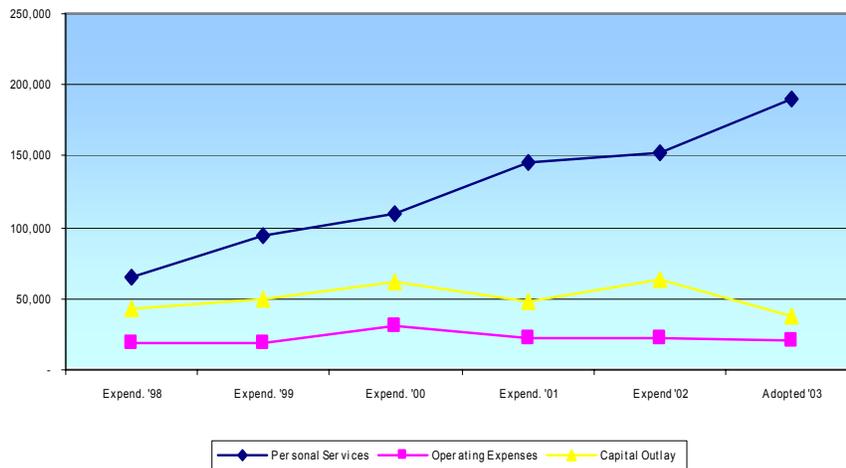
### **Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the Library is to complete the stack lighting project begun in July 2002 and 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**      42,778  
**Circulation**    66,418  
**Patrons**         9,693



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
<b>Personal Services</b>	64,985	94,310	108,900	145,686	153,074	190,554
<b>Operating</b>	18,472	18,896	30,379	22,418	22,267	19,900
<b>Capital</b>	43,664	49,232	62,403	48,115	63,645	38,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 127,121</b>	<b>\$ 162,438</b>	<b>\$ 201,682</b>	<b>\$ 216,219</b>	<b>\$ 238,986</b>	<b>\$ 248,454</b>

## **ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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



Strict state and local policies 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, humane capture, and euthanasia procedures. It is also extremely vital that this department maintain excellent working relationships with local veterinarians, Sheriff's Department, Zoning Department and other enforcement agencies.

### **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 answered 1,435 complaints resulting in the impoundment of 1,832 animals, including 934 dogs, 722 cats and 176 chickens. There were a total of 333 adoptions, 1,263 euthanized, 89 redeemed to their owners and 147 died in the kennel or escaped. The total amount of revenue generated from this department was \$8,824 and included adoption fees, kennel charges, and reimbursement for supplies used by the City of Wauchula.

Animal Services has continued to promote a positive working relationship with local veterinarians, Animal Welfare, Law Enforcement agencies, local businesses, and the interested public.

### **Goals and Objectives**

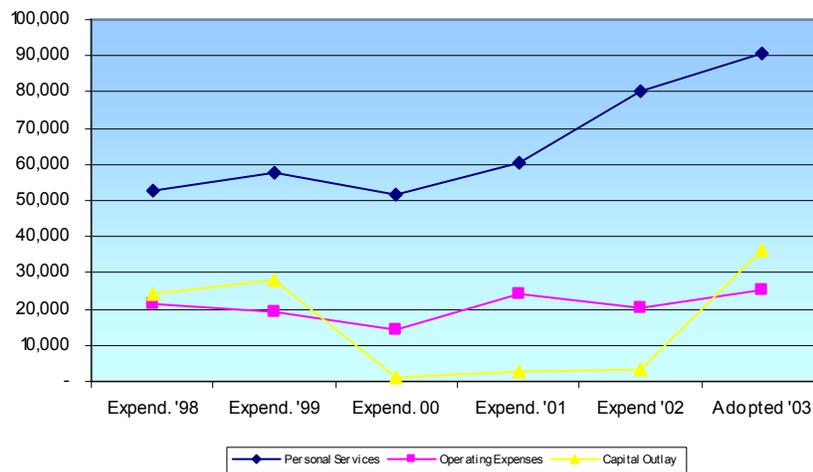
Animal Services will work toward building resource relationships with other local, state and national agencies. In addition, we will continue to strengthen public relations through an improved educational program.



As always, we will continue to improve our standards in professionalism, kennel procedures, adoption promotions and public education and awareness.



### Animal Services



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	52,769	57,894	51,663	60,642	80,282	90,474
Operating	21,535	19,315	14,241	23,929	20,334	25,100
Capital	24,154	27,934	864	2,497	3,410	36,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 98,458</b>	<b>\$ 105,144</b>	<b>\$ 66,768</b>	<b>\$ 87,068</b>	<b>\$ 104,026</b>	<b>\$ 151,574</b>

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The Information Technology Department was created in FY 01-02 by the Director of Planning and Development and includes IT and GIS (Geographical Information Systems). The purpose of the IT department's creation is to implement a plan to connect all of the County department networks into a unified network. Previously, each department was individually responsible for computer systems and internet access, resulting in a plethora of different networks, procedures, connections, and programs. Additionally there were security issues related to having several different companies working separately with each department.

The GIS Department performs several technical functions including maintain-



ing the County road map, land parcel map, and many other spatial layers of land use data and planning information. Additionally site evaluations and special professional services in support of new development and industry are provided by this Department.

With the creation of the IT Department, integrating each department into a unified whole network, each department benefited by:

- Utilization of a high-speed internet



- Establishment of a centralized email system
- Access to the American Data record file system utilized by the Clerk of Courts
- Increased security and email anti-virus protection
- Standardization of equipment

The IT Department is also responsible for repair or replacement of defective equipment, troubleshooting hardware/software problems, and security issues.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the IT Department is to support, maintain and enhance network infrastructure, to provide security and security policies to protect the network and data, to provide help with each department's problems and needs, and to anticipate and plan for future growth and security of County technology.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

In FY 01-02 the Purchasing Department was integrated with the existing network, while maintaining the American Data computer system connection through the 56k dedicated line. Printing problems were resolved due to interfacing with the

American Data system. A firebox was installed to protect the network system from 'hackers'. A spam/virus filter system was initiated on the county email system. LANdesk software was installed to create a helpdesk for troubleshooting across the network from a central location. Lightning protection was installed on



the wireless system and APC battery backups were obtained for the workstations and main system racks. The network was extended to the Annex 2 building. The GIS server's software and hardware was upgraded. Older outdated systems were replaced with newer systems and data was moved from the old systems to the new systems. Stocking of critical spares of main infrastructure components was completed. The network was connected with a true T-1 connection to the internet, replacing the older "frame-relay" system.

Information and mapping was provided to the County regarding phosphate mine issues. A center line coverage was created by GIS for all county roads, a project that took several months. Support was provided by GIS for Road & Bridge, including Engineering. Geographical information was provided for the Economic Development department to assist with new industry.

## **Goals and Objectives**

In the coming year we hope to add Pioneer Park, and possibly the Zolfo Fire Department Annex, to the wireless system. Installation of security cameras in the Public Works building and the zoo at Pioneer Park is also a goal for the upcoming year. Plans are being made to set up a back-up system for each workstation throughout the County. The County servers will be



moved to a more secure location. A new server for centralized calendar and email services is planned. Terminals will be set up instead of workstations in certain locations. An authentication server for better security and additional security for the wireless system are proposed. In the next fiscal year, GIS will be working on the large project of making the parcel layer web-accessible, which will update current layers. We anticipate gathering data on different spatial features, (i.e. culverts, fire hydrants, cell towers, etc.), utilizing GPS equipment.

## ENHANCED 9-1-1 DEPARTMENT

### Fully Enhanced 9-1-1



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.

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's 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 caller's 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

### 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 is police, fire, or medical) the seconds count.

### Activities And Accomplishments

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.

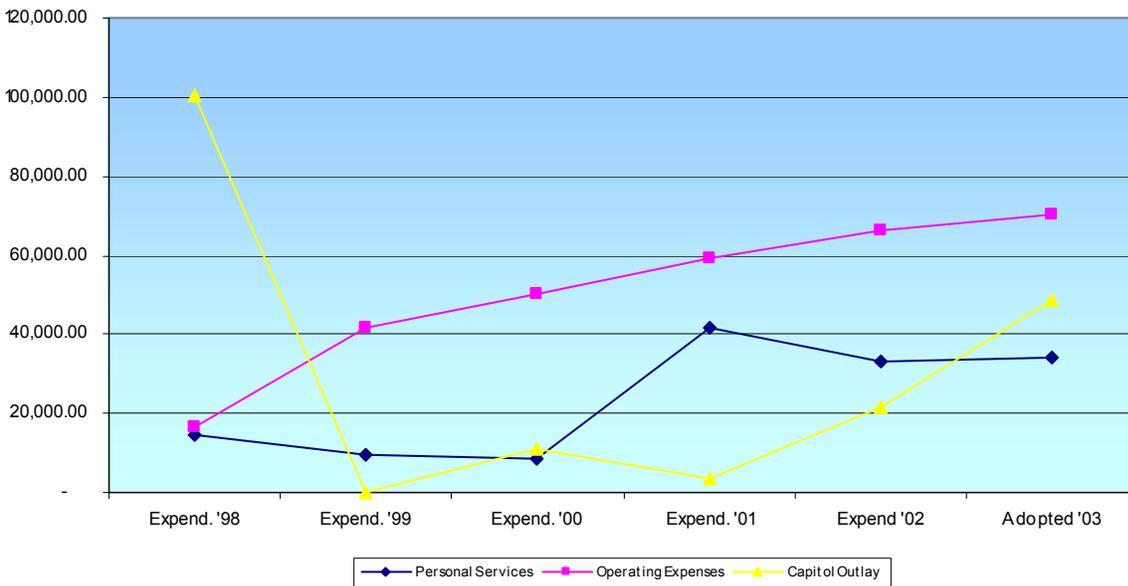
We applied for and received grant monies in the amount of \$13,000.00 to be used for the purchase of a recording device. The Dictaphone Freedom recording device was approved and purchased for the price of \$16,200.92. This recording device uses a state-of-the-art method to ensure that a voice file recorded on this system is in its originally recorded state and has not been altered through electronic or other means.





**Larry Pelton, E911 Coordinator**

**E-911**



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	14,376	9,722	8,683	41,777	33,174	34,109
Operating	16,768	41,868	50,199	59,123	66,148	70,100
Capital	100,387	-	10,860	3,325	21,644	48,517
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 131,531</b>	<b>\$ 51,590</b>	<b>\$ 69,742</b>	<b>\$ 104,225</b>	<b>\$ 120,966</b>	<b>\$ 152,726</b>

## MISCELLANEOUS

Total expenses in the Miscellaneous Budget during fiscal year 2002 were \$630,468 which represents a sixteen percent increase over expenses in 2001. 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. The Primary increases in this budget can be attributed to increases in insurance premiums, legislative assistance fees, and the decision of the Board to utilize General Revenue Funds to supplement the Fire Rescue Fund.

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 \$1,400,000 for the development of a wastewater treatment facility in the Wauchula Hills area. Though the expense of construction is not reflected in this budget, legislative assistance fees are. The County currently has a contract with Craig Smith and Associates for assistance in securing grants and legislative appropriations. They were successful in assisting us to procure these funds and pursuant to our contract were compensated for their assistance through this department.

Also part of this budget is the County's contribution to the Housing Authority. Though their administrative expenses on an annual basis are minimal, the efforts of this Board have resulted in the development of a fifty-two unit Farm Worker Housing Complex. The Housing Authority received funding from USDA Rural Development and Florida Housing Finance Corporation for the construction of the complex. Construction of this complex is currently underway and will be available for occupancy in May of 2003.



## HUMAN SERVICES

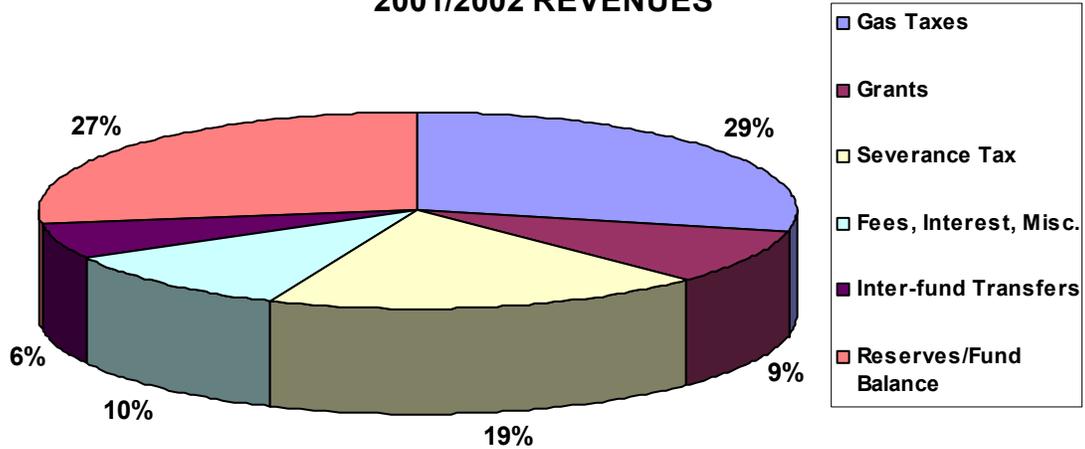
Services in this budget are all under the umbrella of Health and Social Services. Some of the contributions to these organizations enable them to apply for grants which results in a substantial return on the dollar. Some costs are mandated to be paid by the State of Florida, others can be funded depending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

Total expenses in this budget during fiscal year 2002 were \$775,433. 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.

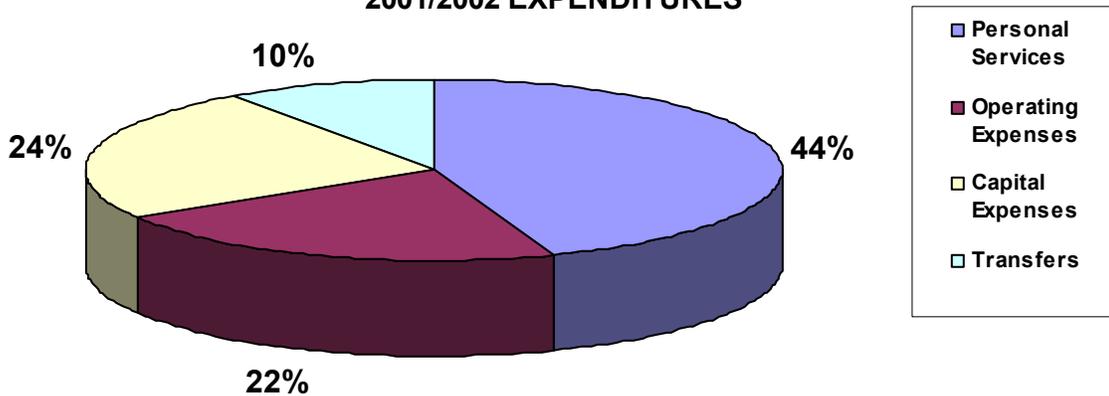
The Human Services Budget was reduced from 2001 by \$55,290. Though we were able to recognize a significant reduction in the category established to assist Florida Hospital (\$250,000) and a savings in the mandated HCRA contribution, increases in Medicaid contributions and assistance to Resthaven and the Health Department increased over last year and we were not able to realize that savings. However, the projection for expenses during 2003 is \$715,135 which represents an eight percent reduction over 2002.



**TRANSPORTATION TRUST  
2001/2002 REVENUES**



**TRANSPORTATION  
2001/2002 EXPENDITURES**



<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>	
Gas Taxes	1,841,390	Personal Services	1,704,245
Grants	597,646	Operating Expenses	829,991
Severance Tax	1,218,745	Capital Expenses	932,559
Fees, Interest, Misc.	679,605	Transfers	370,000
Inter-fund Transfers	390,694		<b>\$ 3,836,795.66</b>
Reserves/Fund Balance	1,762,243		
	<b>\$ 6,490,322.59</b>		

## EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

The Equipment Maintenance (Shop) Department's main purpose is to provide safe and dependable equipment for the use of the County and its 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 Department 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 assistance to all departments as requested. All activities are recorded daily into a dossier fleet management system. The system provides point of entry for all service work on vehicles entering or exiting the shop.

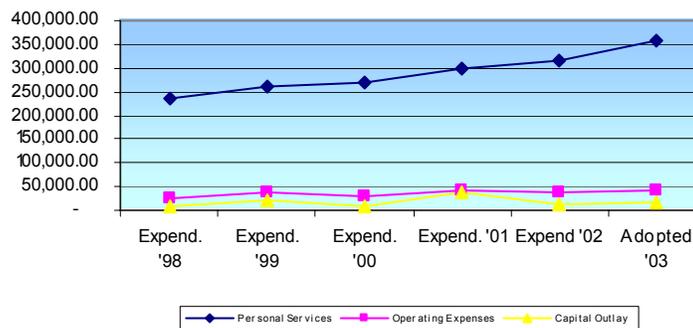
It also updates scheduled and episodic maintenance computer records. This year we switched from paper system to a paperless system. Staff training this year will be welding, plasma cutting, aluminum welding, ABS brakes, new multiplexed electrical systems, and fuel injection system (Ford power stroke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

**Maintenance Shop**



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	235,205	262,728	270,943	299,413	314,698	358,352
Operating	27,249	36,409	29,436	40,083	38,651	42,900
Capital	9,519	20,767	10,003	38,641	13,357	15,050
Transfers						2,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 271,973</b>	<b>\$ 319,903</b>	<b>\$ 310,382</b>	<b>\$ 378,138</b>	<b>\$ 366,706</b>	<b>\$ 418,502</b>

## 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 304.51 miles of paved roads and 207.99 miles of unpaved roads. The Department handles and issues permits for telephone, culvert, electrical and private utilities and 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 2001/2002 fiscal year.

It was a busy year for paving projects. Before a road is paved, it must be evaluated for right-of-way re-



quirements, 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 4.32 total acres of Right-of-Way from Dallas McClellan Road and Ten Mile Grade.

The department also completed 1.34 miles of new construction on the following:

- Solomon Road
- South Barlow Road
- Murray Road

- The Department replaced two timber bridges with concrete box culverts on Old Town Creek Road. The Department completed 50% of the Public Works Parking Lot.
- There was 9.68 miles of resurfacing road-

ways on the following roads: Carlton Road, Fish Branch Road, East Broward Street and CR 664A.

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

- four (4) ea. 1/2 Ton Pickup Trucks
- one (1) ea. Street Sign Machine
- one (1) ea. Forklift
- one (1) ea. Excavator (Track-Hoe)
- one (1) ea. Vibratory Roller
- one (1) ea. 24,000 GVW Flat ed (Diesel)
- one (1) ea. 1 Ton Pickup Truck
- one (1) ea. 1/2 Ton 4x4 Pickup Truck
- One (1) ea. 1/2 Ton Pickup Truck

The total for all equipment purchased: \$486,665.27

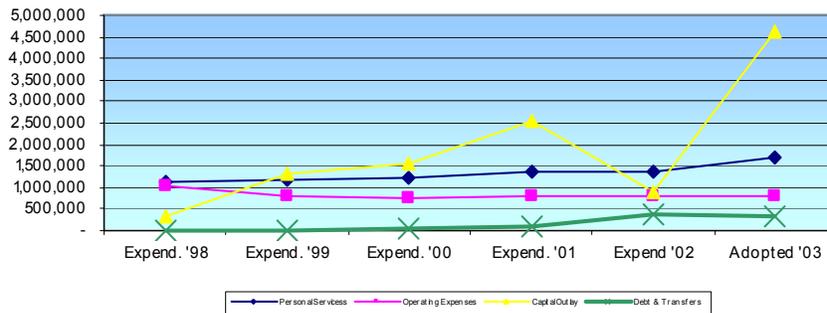


**Ginny Rehberg, Employee of the Year 2002 with Commissioner Norris**



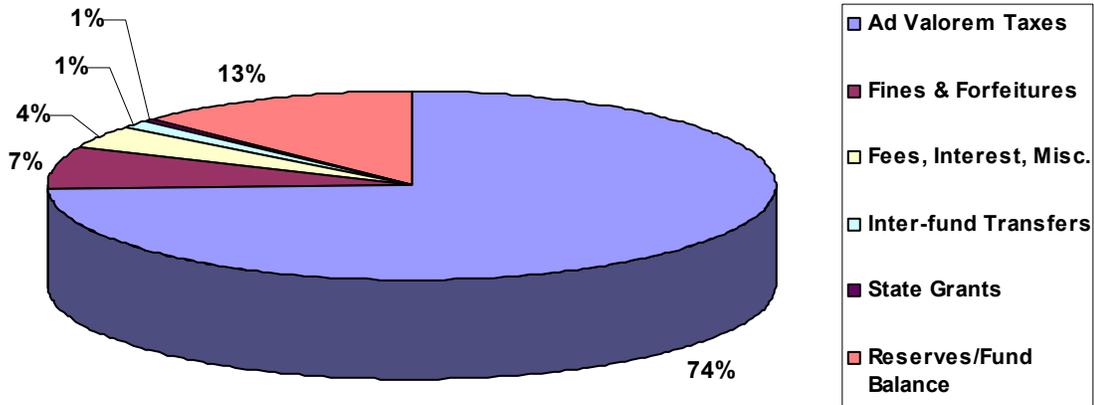
**Old Town Creek - South Bridge**

The following is a summary of the goals and objectives for the Road & Bridge Department for the fiscal year 2002/2003. The Department plans to pave Torrey Road. In fiscal year 02/03 we plan to have New Construction on the following bridges: Steve Roberts Special Bridges (4 ea.) and Murphy Road Bridge. The resurfacing projects are as follows: Crewsville Road (9.363 miles), West Main Street (6.069 miles), Lake Branch Road (2.6 miles) and a lump sum mileage of 6.359 is also planned to be resurfaced the fiscal year 2002/2003. The Department will also be placing shell and new drainage on Dallas McClellan Road.

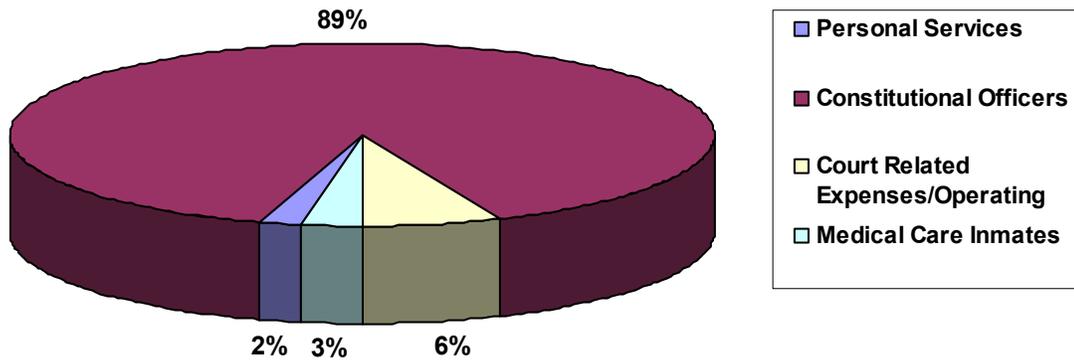


Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	1,151,931	1,155,889	1,226,458	1,389,720	1,389,547	1,696,210
Operating	1,016,464	813,537	737,153	804,156	791,341	786,060
Capital	315,896	1,327,123	1,546,551	2,568,880	919,202	4,602,196
Transfers	-	-	30,000	101,168	370,000	329,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,484,291</b>	<b>\$ 3,296,550</b>	<b>\$ 3,540,162</b>	<b>\$ 4,863,924</b>	<b>\$ 3,470,090</b>	<b>\$ 7,413,866</b>

**FINE & FORFEITURE  
2001/2002 REVENUES**



**FINE & FORFEITURE  
2001/2002 EXPENDITURES**



<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>	
Ad Valorem Taxes	4,774,685	Personal Services	115,233
Fines & Forfeitures	463,946	Constitutional Officers	5,154,932
Fees, Interest, Misc.	247,941	Court Related Expenses/Operating	355,170
Inter-fund Transfers	80,479	Medical Care Inmates	167,901
State Grants	33,650	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,793,235.88</b>
Reserves/Fund Balance	807,865		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,408,565.77</b>		

**FINE AND FORFEITURE FUND**



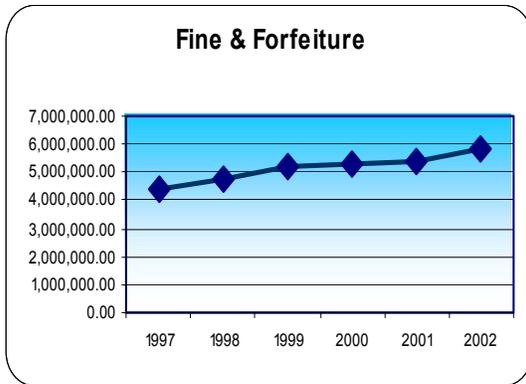
This fund is primarily made up of court system and law enforcement mandates. The commission has little control over the expenditures in this fund. Expenses include costs of operating the Sheriff's Department, Public Defender, State Attorney, Clerk of Courts - County and Circuit, witness fees, Official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

EXPENDITURES	
Clerks Fees & Commissions	166,917
Sheriff 's Expenditures	4,580,780
Medical Care of Prisoners	167,901
Clerk's Circuit Court Exp.	212,274
Clerk's County Court Exp.	194,961
Miscellaneous FF Exp.	36,568
Circuit Criminal Expenses	148,959
Circuit Judge	4,089
State Attorney	7,267
Public Defender	5,116
Guardian Ad Litem	713
County Judge	4,030
County Court Criminal	9,511
County Probation	123,559
Circuit Court Juvenile	130,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,793,236</b>

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.

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	ACTUAL FY 01/02
Fine & Forfeiture	\$4,373,409	\$4,715,642	\$5,165,294	\$5,272,385	\$5,419,113	\$5,793,236



## **PROBATION OFFICE**

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 placing extra burdens on the jail and welfare system.

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

During the 2001/2002 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 con-

tact with or pertaining to the probationer.

The probation staff is responsible for ensuring that probationers attend any mandatory treatment and counseling services. The Probation Department also ensures 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 attends all court sessions relating to the office, and functions as liaison to the jail personnel and law enforcement officers. This office also provides the court interpreter services for the county.

For the FY 01/02 this office received 332 new probation cases. Out of those cases, 150 warrants were issued for non-compliers and there were 79 cases revoked and given different sentences. The Probation Department is responsible for collecting probation fees from probationers, and this department received \$57,671.00 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 01/02 there were 4,791 hours completed at the Hardee County Road Department, and Hardee Pioneer Park. These hours calculated at minimum wage would have cost the county, \$24,672.00 to secure. There were additional community service hours provided to the community at various non-profit organizations throughout the county.

Between probation fees collected and community service provided to the county departments, \$82,343.00 was generated for the county.

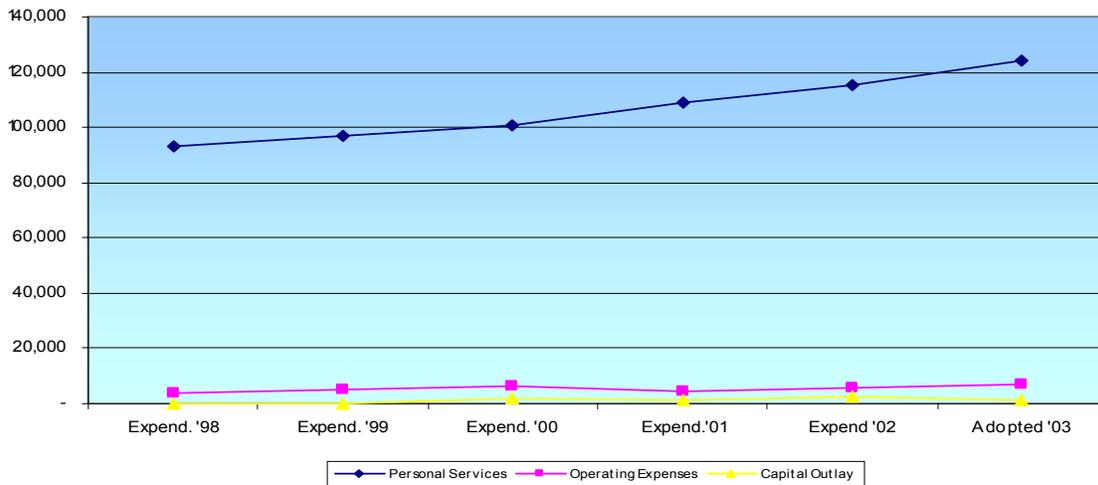
During FY 01/02 the Probation Department had no pertinent capital improvement projects.

The Probation Office has been occupying temporary space at the old Hope of Hardee Building. We are looking forward to moving into our newly restored space at the Courthouse soon.

### Goals and Objectives

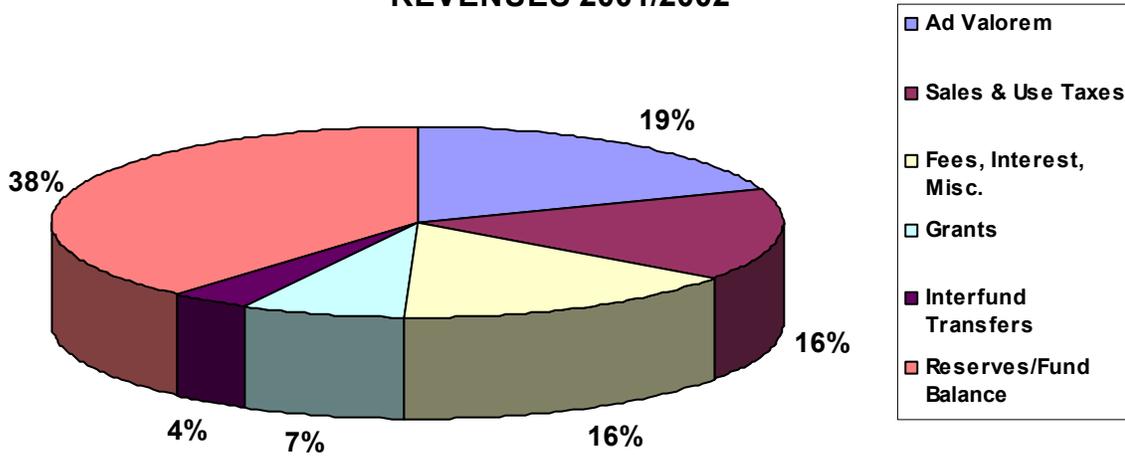
The Probation Department’s goal is to continue to provide professional and courteous service to all court-related personnel, county personnel, and the public. We plan to ensure that the best assistance is given in the judicial system and in providing assistance to probationers to obtain any help that they may need.

#### Probation

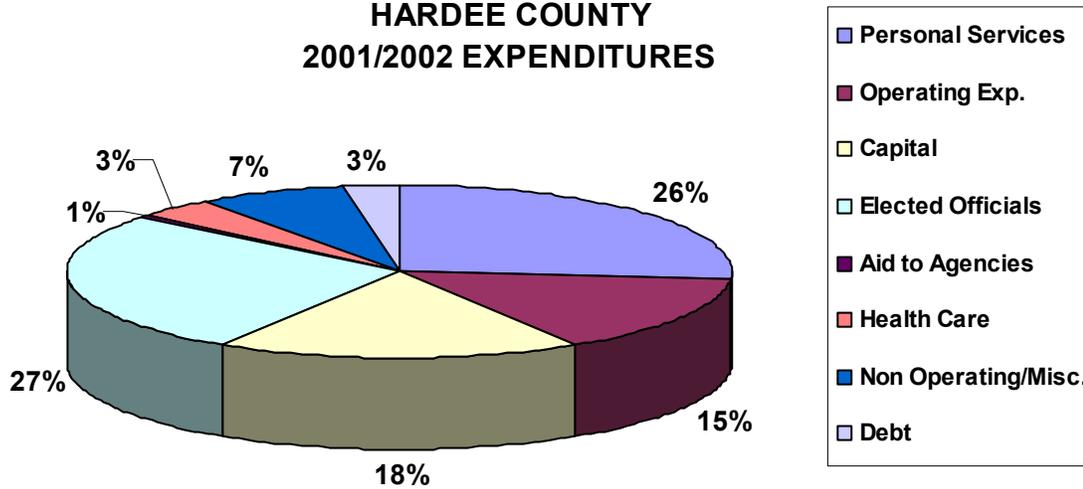


<b>Expenditure Summary</b>	<b>97/98</b>	<b>98/99</b>	<b>99/00</b>	<b>00/01</b>	<b>00/02</b>	<b>Budget '03</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	93,245	96,931	100,697	108,786	115,233	124,033
<b>Operating</b>	3,629	5,298	6,262	4,668	5,749	6,775
<b>Capital</b>	-	-	1,929	1,504	2,577	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 96,874</b>	<b>\$ 102,228</b>	<b>\$ 108,888</b>	<b>\$ 114,958</b>	<b>\$ 123,559</b>	<b>\$ 132,308</b>

### HARDEE COUNTY REVENUES 2001/2002



### HARDEE COUNTY 2001/2002 EXPENDITURES



#### Revenues

Ad Valorem	7,279,594
Sales & Use Taxes	5,846,633
Fees, Interest, Misc.	5,859,240
Grants	2,793,606
Interfund Transfers	1,361,684
Reserves/Fund Balance	14,493,105

**Total** \$ **37,633,862**

#### Expenditures

Personal Services	6,463,420
Operating Exp.	3,602,517
Capital	4,352,077
Elected Officials	6,551,101
Aid to Agencies	181,223
Health Care	850,062
Non Operating/Misc.	1,788,128
Debt	675,519

**Total** \$ **24,464,047**



**SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT**

**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 for 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 Landfill 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 counties' 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 20,967.80 tons of waste, segregating waste into the following categories:

Class I Waste	19,275.84
Wood and Yard Trash	1,109.49
Waste Tires	121.00
Recyclables	457.20
Hazardous Waste	4.27

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

The Solid Waste Department utilized engineering services from SCS Engineers for hydrological and groundwater evaluations, a topographical survey

capacity calculations, and a minor modification including a vertical expansion of the Class I Landfill. The modification was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection in November 2002 and capacity calculations predicted a closure date of September 2004 for the Class I Site.

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 \$762,117 in tipping fee revenues, \$79,846 in grant reimbursements, \$18,552 in recycling revenues and \$117 in miscellaneous revenues.

### **Goals and Objectives**

Future goals for the Solid Waste Landfill include the continued evaluation and impact of Universal Collections and the projected impact of increased commercial growth and construction in the county, will have on the Class I Site. We will continue to plan and implement waste reduction and recycling programs and prepare for expansion or transfer options.

### **Recycling**

The Recycling portion of the Solid Waste Department is responsible for recycling and waste/volume reduction activities. Recycling is achieved by



removing recyclable materials from the waste stream. Recyclable materials are chosen based on an evaluation of the level of difficulty to generate and manage that particular material and market availability. Waste reduction is often achieved through educational programs provided to the public. 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 Solid Waste Recycling 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 removal 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 \$43,719.

Capital cost included the refurbishing of the Material Recovery Facility. New equipment, including a steel belt conveyor, cross belt conveyor and a Selco-Harris 125S4118 Badger Baler was purchased and installed by Criggler Enterprises for \$289,500. In-house services included all electrical work necessary, construction of new cat walks and resurfacing the facility floor at a cost of \$48,500. During the project, all waste was diverted to the Class I Landfill as loose waste fill from May of 2002 through August of 2002.



### **Goals and Objectives**

Goals include securing innovative and new and/or better markets for recyclables. Due to deteriorating markets, we have recognized and aimed a new focus on local vendors of specific traits and we have begun some pilot projects such as air conditioners, and salvageable furniture (for specific local vendors of particular traits such as packing houses, lawn mower and air conditioner repair services, upholstery shops). We hope to improve production and create new markets with attention paid to the space savings, and cost of processing each new material.



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	343,038	317,353	297,460	324,309	340,604	417,617
Operating	306,136	290,941	308,662	407,264	486,394	535,970
Capital	54,109	109,355	916,231	49,368	340,002	658,000
Reserves /Develop.	109,684	110,000	111,875	118,234	175,000	2,011,453
Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	857,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 812,967</b>	<b>\$ 827,649</b>	<b>\$1,634,228</b>	<b>\$ 899,175</b>	<b>\$ 1,342,001</b>	<b>\$ 4,480,540</b>

## 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, revegetation and methane gas venting systems.

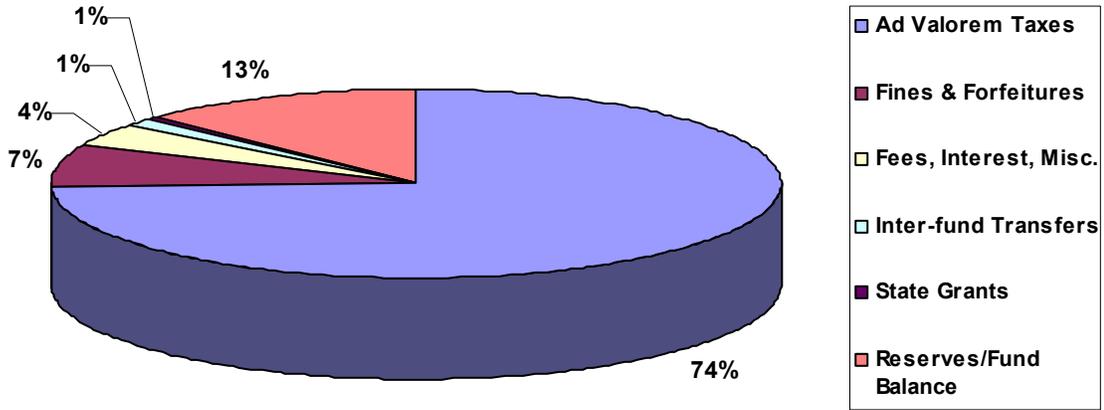
The amounts reflected in the chart are the total funds accumulated by transfers made from the Solid Waste Department . The amount transferred this year was \$110,000.

During calendar year 2002, estimates were calculated to be \$1,331,816 for closure and \$1,619,902 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 \$1,273,317.40 Therefore, if this amount does not vary significantly, the remaining amount to be funded for closure would be \$58,499.

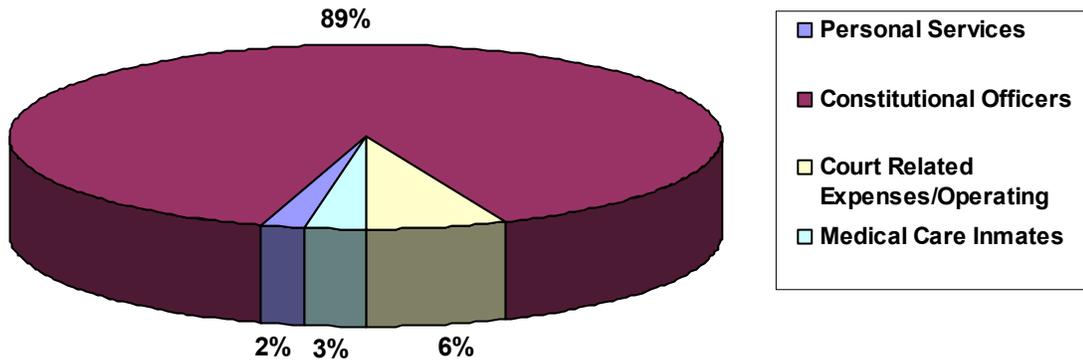


Annual Reserve Summary	ACTUAL 1997	ACTUAL 1998	ACTUAL 1999	ACTUAL 2000	ACTUAL 2001	ACTUAL 2002
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$532,519	\$653,375	\$755,452	\$923,671	\$1,103,908	\$1,273,317

**FINE & FORFEITURE  
2001/2002 REVENUES**



**FINE & FORFEITURE  
2001/2002 EXPENDITURES**



<b>Revenues</b>	
Ad Valorem Taxes	4,774,685
Fines & Forfeitures	463,946
Fees, Interest, Misc.	247,941
Inter-fund Transfers	80,479
State Grants	33,650
Reserves/Fund Balance	807,865
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,408,565.77</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personal Services	115,233
Constitutional Officers	5,154,932
Court Related Expenses/Operating	355,170
Medcial Care Inmates	167,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,793,235.88</b>



## **FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

Hardee County Fire Rescue was created in 1987 following a merge of the Wauchula Fire Department and Hardee County EMS. The Department was initially staffed with seven firefighters per shift, an operational staff of 21, and call volumes were around 1900 per year. Since that time, we have shown a 50% increase in our annual call volumes. Today we are involved in much more than just firefighting and answering medical calls, we ensure the safety for every county resident. It's not just our job, it's our life.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of this department is to prevent the loss of lives and property due to fire, life-threatening emergencies and disasters. ***Our fire department will bolster its mission by providing fire prevention and safety education to our schools and citizens alike. Our emergency response shall be rapid with the deployment of highly trained, professional firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Our department's dedication to the community extends to the mitigation of all emergencies using the most efficient and effective means available.***

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

The Department's staff of 24 is made up

of 12 Firefighter/EMT's and 12 Firefighter/Paramedics, each of whom must routinely train, plan and be prepared for all emergencies that should arise.

The Fire Rescue Department is required by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) to conduct one live-fire exercise per year. This department conducted three burns in 2002 in an effort to ensure safety and proficiency



when we are faced with always dangerous structure fires.

The training hours have paid off. We were faced with some high profile calls in 2002, including vehicle accidents resulting in serious injuries and death, several thousand acres burned as a result of wild fires, two church fires, Arcade apartments, FI Institute for Neurological Rehabilitation, several more commercial fires and 58 residential fires. There have been numerous medical success stories; several cardiac arrest saves and babies delivered in the rear of our Rescue vehicles. An unbelievable working relationship has been established with Tampa General Hospital, and we have witnessed remarkable recoveries in the trauma and stroke victims that we have flown there over the past year. Our medical care is of the highest caliber and continues to grow and develop.

The training, development and activation of a Hazardous Materials Response Team was only an unrealized dream for Hardee County Fire Rescue until we received a grant for \$27,000 through Emergency Management.

Special thanks should be given to the departments that have sacrificed personnel to participate in our decontamination team.

Since our activation we have had several serious incidents involving commercial tankers and we were able to control and contain these potentially life threatening situations without the assistance from the surrounding counties.



We have hired some new employees during the past year;

- Nina Macias, Billing Specialist from Wauchula
- FF/EMT Nehamiha Ferrante from Avon Park
- FF/EMT Jonathon Waters from Ft. Meade
- FF/EMT Dan Brimblecom from Sarasota
- FF/EMT Chris Taylor from Clermont
- Promotion of FF/Paramedic Keith Patterson to Lieutenant and Promotion of Deputy Chief Michael Choate to Fire Chief.

In FY 01-02 successful ratification of a union contract was reached. The purchase of new fire reporting software that will assist us in keeping more accurate reporting statistics. The Fire Rescue Department is very proud to have been included in a nationally published magazine called "1<sup>st</sup> Responder". We enter stories with pictures of our scenes which are posted monthly and can be viewed on the web at [www.1stresponder.com](http://www.1stresponder.com).

We have acquired a 6x6 military brush truck, which is on loan from the Division of Forestry. It is currently being modified and painted.

Purchase of a 2001 Ford F450 4x4 was made in FY 01-02. We were in desperate need of this vehicle for wildland fires. A 2001 Ford F150 4x4 was also purchased and is utilized as a staff vehicle.



### Goals and Objectives

We are already involved in a national fire training film production, called F.E.T.N. (Fire Emergency Training Network) this network is shown in Fire departments all over the world. F.E.T.N. is also responsible for training videos that are sold world wide. They will be coming to Hardee County Fire Rescue for a three day filming. They will be here with us, shooting our calls and we will be talking about ICS (Incident Command System.) How we were chosen is almost unbelievable. We were in the running with the Phoenix Fire Department to do a video about



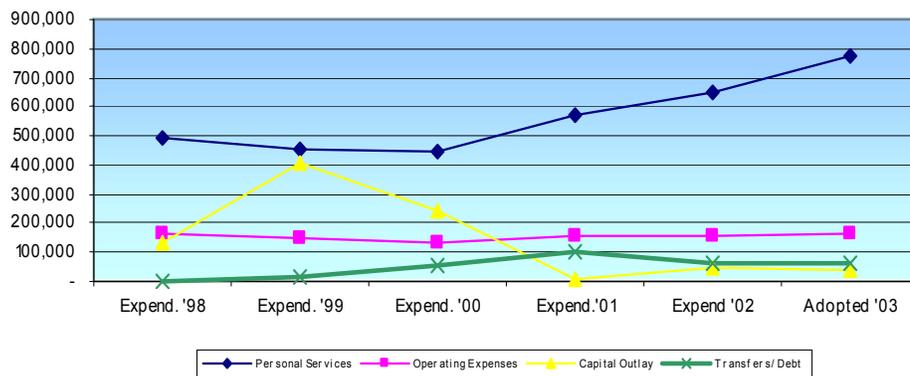
Incident Command and they decided to go with us and change it to Rural ICS training. This is very exciting for us all. We will be in thousands of Fire departments across the nation. The question “Where is Hardee County?” will no longer be an issue. After we are all famous we will be happy to give autographs!



This year provides a host of challenges for the Fire Rescue Department. It’s our primary goal to carefully grow our staff, build outlying fire stations and purchase the equipment to meet the needs of the county citizens.

As the county population increases and the societal perceptions of our role changes in the community, this department will continue to be called upon to mitigate, rescue, extinguish, prevent and educate at an increasing level. Yet we strive to attain these goals while delivering our service in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Hardee County Fire Rescue’s success will be measured in the coming years; not only in our ability to manage the quantity of the calls to which we respond, but the quality of the response we deliver.

### Fire Control

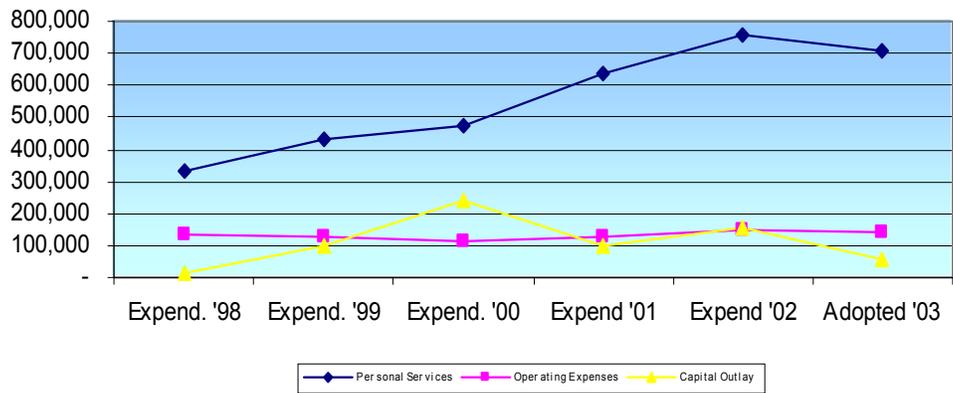


### Fire Control

Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
<b>Personal Services</b>	492,904	455,880	449,219	573,064	652,754	777,739
<b>Operating</b>	162,987	145,540	132,023	158,895	153,665	166,131
<b>Capital</b>	131,777	406,719	239,138	7,162	49,549	39,650
<b>Transfers/Misc</b>	-	16,098	54,098	100,881	62,881	65,381
<b>Contingency</b>	-	-	-	-	-	41,453
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 787,668</b>	<b>\$ 1,024,237</b>	<b>\$ 874,479</b>	<b>\$ 840,003</b>	<b>\$ 918,848</b>	<b>\$ 1,090,354</b>



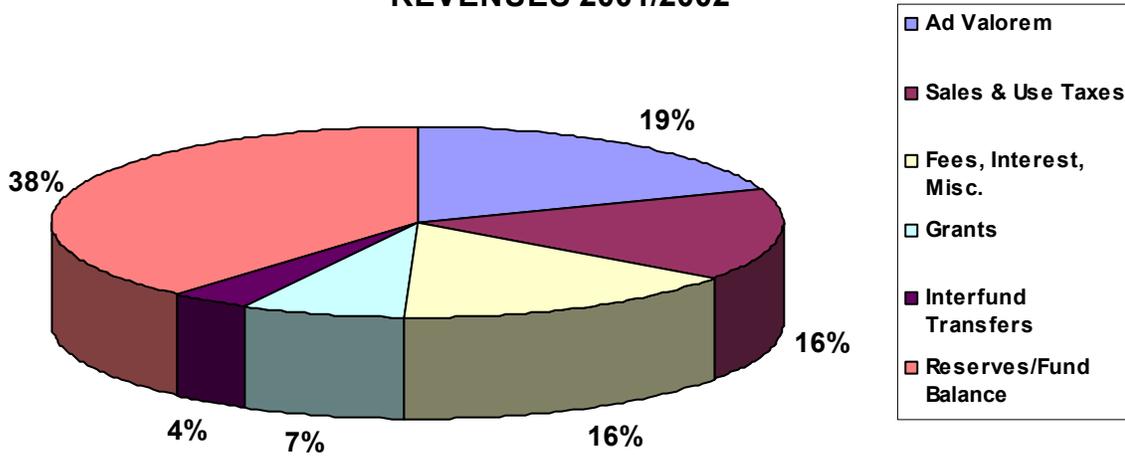
### Ambulance



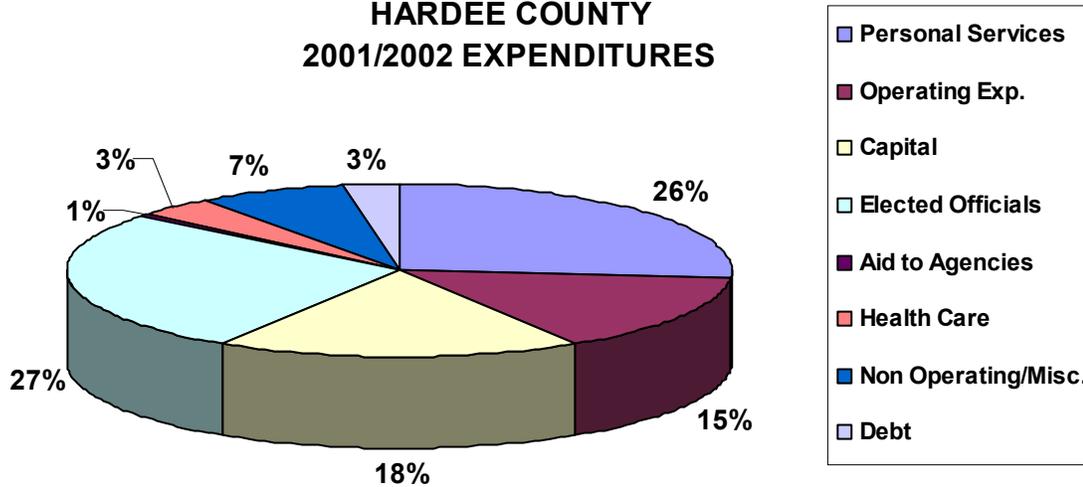
### Ambulance Department

Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	335,949	435,236	475,944	638,680	756,181	710,750
Operating/Transfers	134,070	127,908	113,190	127,751	148,052	144,850
Capital	12,484	312,320	259,156	112,473	170,523	70,098
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 482,503</b>	<b>\$ 875,464</b>	<b>\$ 848,289</b>	<b>\$ 878,904</b>	<b>\$ 1,074,755</b>	<b>\$ 925,698</b>

### HARDEE COUNTY REVENUES 2001/2002



### HARDEE COUNTY 2001/2002 EXPENDITURES



#### Revenues

Ad Valorem	7,279,594
Sales & Use Taxes	5,846,633
Fees, Interest, Misc.	5,859,240
Grants	2,793,606
Interfund Transfers	1,361,684
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#### Expenditures

Personal Services	6,463,420
Operating Exp.	3,602,517
Capital	4,352,077
Elected Officials	6,551,101
Aid to Agencies	181,223
Health Care	850,062
Non Operating/Misc.	1,788,128
Debt	675,519

**Total** \$ **24,464,047**



**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 Clinton R. Thompson  
District III Gordon H. Harris  
District IV E. Milton Lanier  
District V Walter B. Obit, Jr.

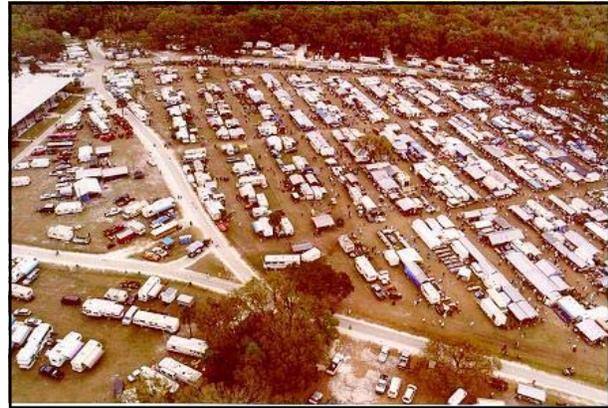


## PIONEER PARK DAYS

Pioneer Park Days is coordinated each year by the Personnel Department with the assistance of County Staff from various Departments.

### Mission Statement

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



*Aerial Photo Pioneer Park Days*

A popular event at the show this year was the helicopter rides. Due to the cold weather they were grounded early in the morning but were able to get off the ground once it began to warm up.

All of the 489 vendor spaces were sold out for the 2003 year.

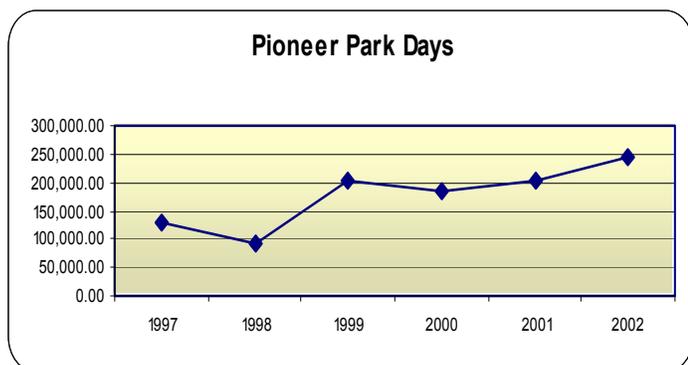
To coordinate a show of this magnitude entails dedicated planning, purchasing, communication with all participants and the public in a friendly and understanding manner to ensure an enjoyable visit by all.

As past revenues and shows indicate, the Personnel/Pioneer Park Days staff has maintained a high standard of quality to ensure the tradition continues year after year.

### **Activities And Accomplishments:**

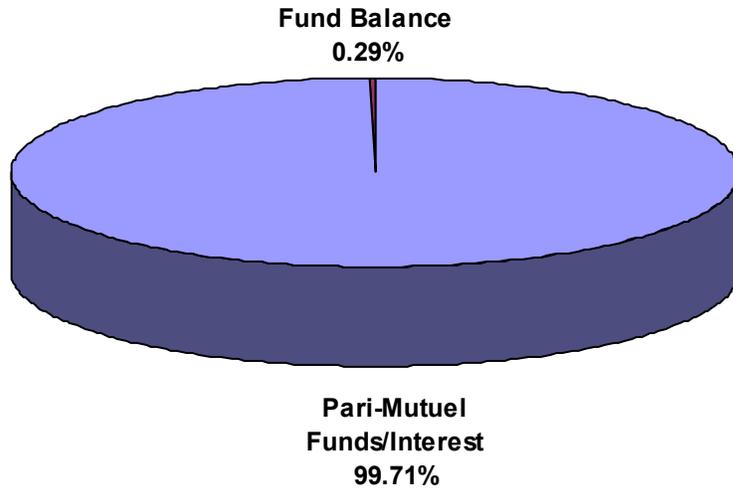
Despite the cold weather, with frost on two mornings the annual show was still a great success. The 2002 show continued to bring in profit to enable future improvements to be accomplished in County parks. In the past the profits from the annual show has enabled Hardee County to build an Animal Refuge, construct the Nickerson/Ullrich building, purchase property for a parking lot along with other various improvements. Future plans include a sewer system for Pioneer Park. In addition the revenues received will be instrumental in funding the future plans of Hardee Lakes Park.

Hardee County was honored by the attendance of the Farm Collector Magazine editor and staff located in Topeka, Kansas. The annual show was highlighted in the May issue of their magazine which is distributed throughout the United States.

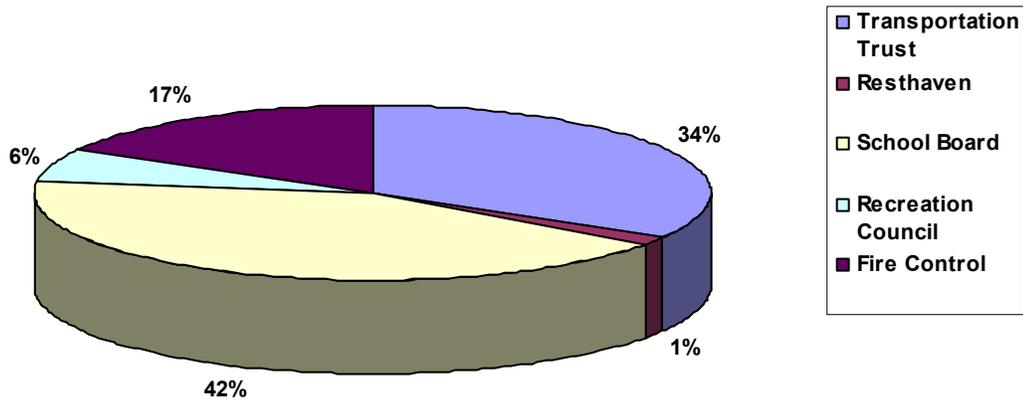


Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Personal Services	25,659	23,757	24,465	25,026	26,863	35,501
Operating	64,374	172,154	162,311	171,366	216,404	240,100
Capital	1,870	5,641	-	4,996	-	-
Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	26,349
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 91,903</b>	<b>\$ 201,551</b>	<b>\$ 186,776</b>	<b>\$ 201,387</b>	<b>\$ 243,267</b>	<b>\$ 301,950</b>

## RACE TRACK 2001/2002 REVENUES



## RACE TRACK 2001/2002 EXPENDITURES



### Revenues

Pari-Mutuel Funds	446,832
Fund Balance	1,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 448,146</b>

### Expenditures

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

**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 2002 funds were disbursed as follows:



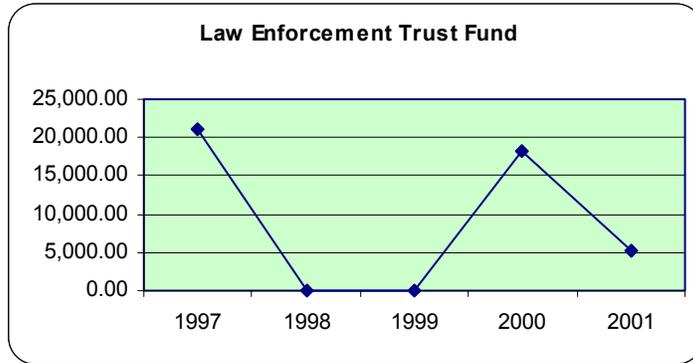
School Board	\$ 187,375
Transportation Trust	\$ 150,000
*Recreational Council	\$ 26,500
Resthaven	\$ 6,625
Fire Control	<u>\$ 76,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 446,500</b>

During fiscal year 2002 funds will be distributed as follows:

School Board	\$ 187,375
Transportation Trust	\$ 121,000
*Recreational Council	\$ 26,500
Resthaven	\$ 6,625
Fire Control	<u>\$ 105,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 446,500</b>



Expenditure Summary	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	00/02	Budget '03
Hardee Memorial	45,000	45,000	-	-	-	-
Resthaven	6,625	6,625	6,625	6,625	6,625	6,625
School Board	187,375	187,375	187,375	187,375	187,375	187,375
Recreation Council	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500
General Revenue	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-
Transp. Trust	176,000	176,000	176,000	221,000	150,000	121,000
Fire Control	-	-	-	91,000	76,000	105,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 446,500</b>	<b>\$ 446,500</b>	<b>\$ 401,500</b>	<b>\$ 537,500</b>	<b>\$ 446,500</b>	<b>\$ 446,500</b>



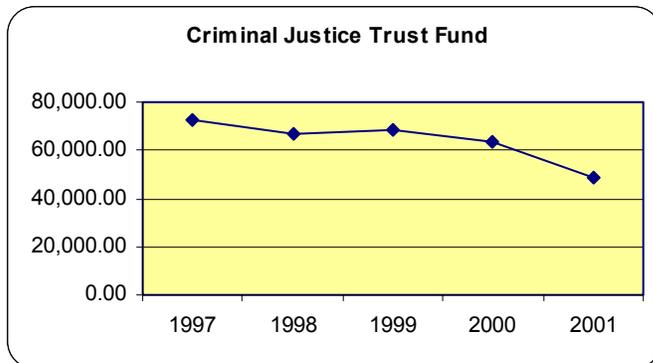
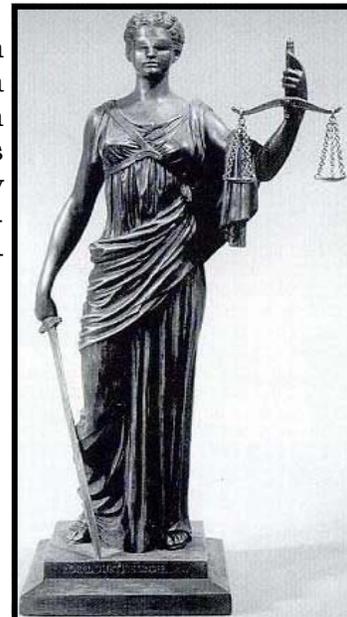
**LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND**

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 1997	ACTUAL 1998	ACTUAL 1999	ACTUAL 2000	ACTUAL 2001	ACTUAL 2002
Summary	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
TOTAL	\$21,000	0	0	18,126	5,000	5306

**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 1997	ACTUAL 1998	ACTUAL 1999	ACTUAL 2000	ACTUAL 2001	ACTUAL 2002
Summary	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
TOTAL	\$72,574	\$67,004	\$68,430	\$63,812	62,001	\$48,537



