

**A RENEWED SPIRIT OF PROGRESS**



# **HARDEE COUNTY**

**2003-2004  
2004-2005  
ANNUAL REPORT**



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**Hardee County Board of County Commissioners**  
**412 West Orange Street, Rm 103**  
**Wauchula, FL 33873**  
**Phone: 863-773-9430 - Fax: 863-773-0958**

**Commissioners**

Minor L Bryant, District I  
 Gordon R. Norris, District III  
 Clifton N. (Nick) Timmerman, District II  
 Bobby Ray Smith, District IV  
 Dale A. Johnson, District V

**Constitutional Officers**

<b>Supervisor of Elections</b> Jeffery Ussery 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>Property Appraiser</b> Kathy L. Crawford P.O. Box 877 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-2196 Fax 863-773-0954
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<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
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**Board of County Commission Service Divisions**

<b>County Manager</b> Lexton Albritton 412 West Orange Street, Room 103 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-9430 Fax 863-773-0958	<b>Community Development &amp; General Services</b> Janet Gilliard, Director 412 West Orange Street Room 201 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-6349 Fax 863-773-5801	<b>Planning &amp; Development</b> Director—Vacant 412 West Orange Street, Room 103 Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-9430 Fax 863-773-0958
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<b>Public Safety</b> Michael Choate, Director 149 K D Revell Road Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 863-773-4362 Fax 863-773-3827	<b>Economic Development</b> Park Winter, Director 312 North Seventh Avenue Wauchula, FL 33873 Phone 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
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## Board of County Commission Service Departments

### **Ambulance Services Fire Rescue**

Michael Choate, Fire Chief  
149 K. D. Revell Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-4362  
Fax 863-773-3827

### **Buildings and Grounds Parks and Recreation**

Danny Weeks, Facilities Director  
205 Hanchey Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
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### **Building and Zoning**

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401 West Main Street  
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### **E-911**

#### **Veteran's Affairs**

Larry Pelton, VA Officer  
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Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-0222 E911  
Phone 863-773-9853 Vets  
Fax 863-773-3827

#### **County Extension**

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

#### **Emergency Management**

Rich Shepard, Director  
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Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone 863-773-6373  
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#### **Human Resources**

#### **Pioneer Park Days**

Jane Long, Director  
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Wauchula, FL 33873  
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Fax 863-773-2154

#### **Information Technology**

#### **Services**

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#### **County Library**

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#### **Mining**

West Palmer, Director  
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#### **Office of Management and Budget**

Janice Williamson, Director  
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#### **County Probation**

Peter Zelyk, Director  
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Room 121  
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Fax 863-773-0966

#### **Purchasing**

Jack Logan, Director  
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Wauchula, FL 33873  
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#### **Maintenance Shop**

Gary Miller, Director  
205 Hanchey Road  
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#### **Soil Conservation**

Howard Richards, Director  
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#### **Solid Waste Landfill Animal Control**

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685 Airport Road  
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### **COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE**

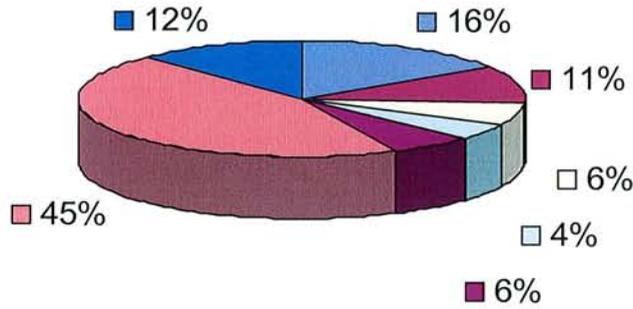
The theme for this year's annual report is "Renewed Spirit of Progress." How appropriate....The definition of renewed in the *American Heritage Dictionary* is to make new; restore or to regain; revive. We feel that is exactly what Hardee County has done. Since the devastating hurricane season in 2004, we have returned to some level of normalcy. Hardee County was a special place before the hurricanes and that has not changed. Our unshakeable community spirit, and our resolve to build back better and safer, has continued to serve us well and guide us through the rebuilding process.

In an effort to ensure we will accomplish our goals for community growth, the Board has continued to seek assistance from the State of Florida. Last year, Hardee County received \$300,000 for the Wauchula Hills Wastewater Service Area, \$250,000 for the Bowling Green Wastewater Service Area, and \$350,000 for the Hardee County Courthouse.

On November 04, 2005, we had our Legislative Delegation Hearing and we submitted our Legislative Package. We requested funding for Water & Wastewater, Courthouse, Bowling Green & Zolfo Springs Fire Stations, Wooden Bridges, and the Cattlemen's Arena.

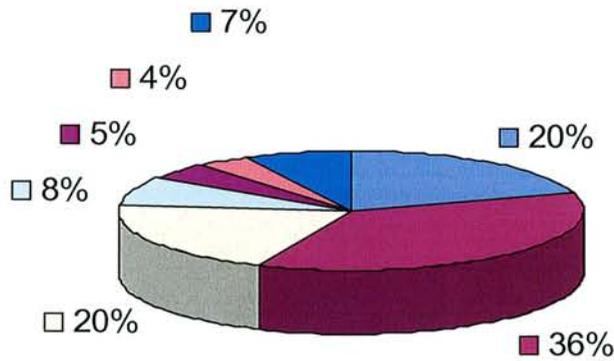
This year we will continue to work diligently on enhancing economic development opportunities for our community and continue to serve the citizens of Hardee County. As you read the report, we hope that you will be pleased by the accomplishments we have made and will continue to make. By working together and staying focused, we will continue to ensure that the needs of the community are met and that Hardee County continues with its "*Renewed Spirit of Progress.*"

2004-2005 GENERAL REVENUE REVENUES



- Ad Valorem
- Sales and Use Taxes
- Fees, Interest, Misc.
- Grants
- Transfers & Reimbursements
- Hurricane Appropriations
- Loan Proceeds

2004-2005 GENERAL REVENUE EXPENDITURES



- Personal Services
- Operating Expenses
- Capital Expenses
- Elected Officials
- Aid to Agencies
- Health Care
- Debt

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
AND BUDGET**



**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 organize and manage the County's budget and 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.

**2004-05 Activities  
and Accomplishments**

***Taxable Value and Millage Rates***

In fiscal year 2004/2005, the Board assessed a rolled-back millage rate of 8.7064 mills using the certified taxable value of \$1,301,193,193. The ad valorem taxes collected were allocated to the General Revenue Fund at 4.13 mills representing 47.43% of the revenue and to the Fine and Forfeiture Fund at 4.577 mills representing 52.57% of the revenue. The total actual amount of ad valorem taxes collected was **\$10,938,050** with **\$5,189,011** credited to the General Revenue Fund and **\$5,749,039** credited to the Fine and Forfeiture Fund.

The total budget approved for fiscal year 2004/2005 was \$56,296,680, which was a 42% increase over the budget for the previous year. The significant increase was due to the 2004 Hurricane Disasters which were estimated to cost an additional \$20 million dollars. The estimated expenditures for Hurricane Recovery for 2003/04 was \$3,476,471 and for 2004/05 was \$11,193,890. FEMA, insurance proceeds and hurricane recovery related grants brought in \$18,925,285. In addition, the County secured a 4 million dollar loan to secure adequate cash on hand for extraordinary purchases due to recovery. Many of the Building repair projects and all of the Road and Bridge repair projects remained in progress at the end of the fiscal year.

In addition, the revenues and expenditures were increased due to the onset of construction of Hardee Lakes Parks.

***Budget Process***

In April of 2004, the Office of Management and Budget conducted a departmental workshop to assist Departments with the development of their budgets. Each Department received a packet with

instructions on the proper development of their budget. All departments were able to electronically enter their budget requests through the county's network system. This process, once again, proved to be extremely beneficial to the departments.

During this past year's budget process for the adoption of the 2004/2005 fiscal year budget, the Board used the rolled back millage rate of 8.7064 mills.

### ***Special Assessments***

Hardee County's Fire and Waste Special Assessment Program is administered through the Office of Management and Budget. We work closely with the Property Appraiser's Office and the Building and Zoning Department to identify the residential units and commercial units that are assessable through the Special Assessment Program. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Building and Zoning Department, owners of newly constructed units are routed to our office to pay a prorated portion of their special assessment fees. The fees collected are deposited into the Fire Control Fund and the Solid Waste Fund and are utilized for the operation of each of those departments.

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

Investments for the County were turned over to the Clerk of Courts due to new staff in the OMB office that have not received the required training for investments. Investment earnings on excess funds significantly increased 56% from the year before for a total of \$422,636 earned in fiscal year 04-05.

The County's debt at the end of the fiscal year was \$9,364,287 and includes Transportation Trust loan, Waste Water Development loan, Hurricane Cash Flow loan and leases for three fire trucks, two ambulances, one grade-all and E-911 equipment.

The County paid \$2,283,755 in principal payment and \$345,696 in interest payments. These amounts included 1.5 million in severance dollars from the Economic Development District for the pay off of the Industrial Park land.

In December of 2004, the Board borrowed \$4,000,000 through the Florida Local Government Finance Commission to ensure adequate cash on hand for extraordinary Hurricane expenses.

### ***Capital Assets***

Capital Assets which include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets were reported this year. County assets were reported at \$35,078,322 and the Enterprise assets were reported at \$10,538,076. Depreciation on fixed assets is charged over the estimated useful lives using a straight-line method assigning 10-15 years to buildings and improvements, 5-15 years to operating machinery and equipment and 10-30 years for infrastructure.

### ***Revenue/Expenditure Summary***

In fiscal year 04-05, the total revenues for the County's governmental funds were \$41,741,072 and the total expenses were \$34,234,963. The balance at the end of the year was \$18,214,397. The increase in the revenues and expenses from the year before were mainly due to FEMA and insurance payments for hurricane damages and the Economic Development District's repayment to the County for the IDA debt payoff.

The balance carried forward was composed of 12.8 million in the General Fund, however, this forward will continue to fund Hurricane Recovery in-progress and re-payment of the Hurricane Loan. 1.5 million was carried

forward in Fines and Forfeiture, 3 million in Transportation Trust for construction in progress and less than 1 million in other governmental funds.

In fiscal year 04-05, the total revenues received for the County Proprietary Funds were \$2,366,402. Of that amount 93% was collected by Solid Waste and 7% by Wauchula Hills and Vandolah Wastewater Funds. The total expenses for these funds were \$2,165,384. The net increase in cash provided by operating activities was \$788,680 in Solid Waste, \$1,550 in Wauchula Hills Wastewater, and (\$33,461) in Vandolah Wastewater. The decrease in Vandolah was due to excess revenues carried forward from the previous year.

### **Hurricane Recovery**

Our Departments objective following the 2004 Hurricane Disasters was to immediately establish procurement and tracking procedures for all expenses related to emergency needs and recovery. This was accomplished by establishing individual budgets within the General Fund for all expenses.

Two temporary positions were added to this office for approximately six months to help manage the hurricane recovery including maintaining the FEMA project worksheets and identifying displaced residents to determining special assessments.

A four million dollar loan was secured in December of 2004 to assist the County with cash flow issues associated with the recovery. The 2004-2005 budget increased approximately 40% due to the Hurricanes. The estimated expenditures for Hurricane Recovery for 2003/04 was \$3,476,471 and for 2004/05 was \$11,193,890. Recovery continues with repairs to buildings, road, and bridges

still in progress. FEMA reimbursement, insurance proceeds and hurricane recovery related grants have brought in \$18,925,285 to date.

### **Goals and Objectives**

For 2006 the Office of Management and Budget will take a synergistic approach in seeking new and improved methods to:

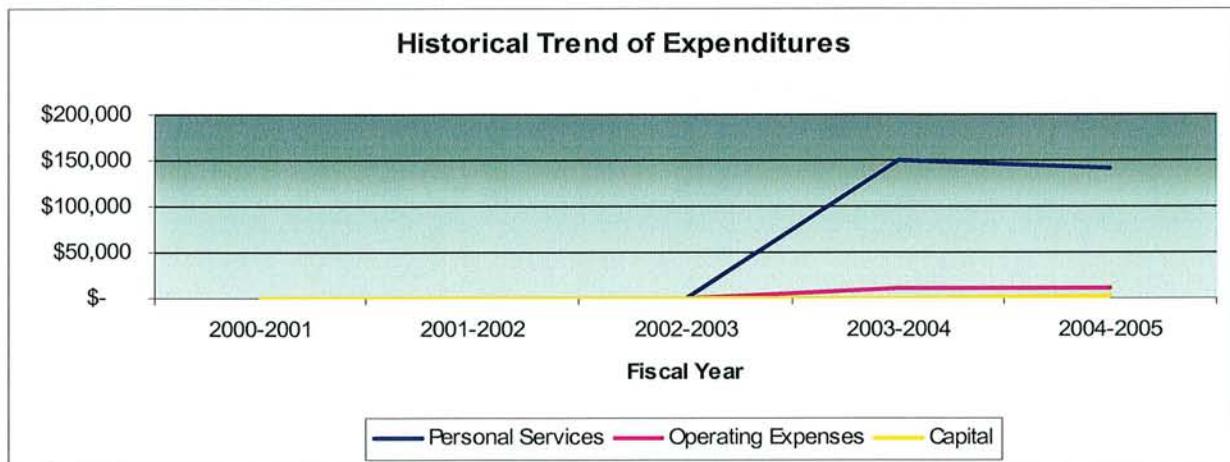
- Develop and manage an improved County Budget; including policies and procedures consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners;
- Compile and disseminate the Annual Report;
- Administer the Special Assessment Program;
- Conduct Indigent Health Care activities;
- Direct and manage debt related activities.

Additional goals set for the upcoming year include:

- Begin developing a 5-10 year Capital Improvement Plan and evaluate new methods of tracking and reporting progress;
- Research and implement growth management practices necessary to aid in the economic development of Hardee County.
- Close out of the 2004 Hurricane Recovery projects and develop policies and procedures for future disasters.
- Add road and bridge infrastructure to the fixed assets schedule.

Our Department will continue to strive to excel in all of our endeavors and we are looking forward to a positive and productive year.

Office of Management & Budget		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Personal Services	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,730	\$ 142,011
Operating Expenses	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,918	\$ 10,349
Capital	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 160,648</b>	<b>\$ 154,000</b>



## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Human Resource Department consists of three full time employees whose responsibilities are to ensure the employees of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners are employed in a fair and safe working environment. In addition the Human Resource Department assures all disciplinary matters, employment, and other labor issues are properly handled in accordance with the Hardee

County Rules and Regulations Union Contracts and with State and Federal Law.

The Human Resource Department is also responsible for the investigation and processing of all insurance claims, including Workers Compensation, Automobile, Property and Liability claims.

### **Mission Statement**

The Human Resource Department's mission is to provide support to all County Departments, and 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.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

During the 03/04 year, the Human Resource Department conducted 39 interviews for employment and successfully hired 22 new employees.

### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

During the 04/05 year the Human Resource Department conducted 87 interviews for employment. Hardee County has successfully hired 42 new employees.



The Human Resource Director, along with the negotiating team, was successful in negotiating the LUINA, Local 678, Union Contract. The Human Resource Department and the negotiation team for Hardee County conducted negotia-

tions with the Hardee County Fire Rescue Union for development of a working Union Contract.

The Human Resource Department continues a proactive role in providing safety training for employees to assist in the reduction of accidents.

The fourth annual benefit fair was a huge success. The fair provides the employees an opportunity to meet and discuss benefits with appropriate representatives. This year we had 13 booths in-





cluding representatives from Florida Hospital, VALIC, Wauchula State Bank, AFLAC and many others.



Our department is responsible for the calculation of payroll for the employees under the

Board of County Commissioners. Also, the reconciliation of insurance premiums and other payroll deductions for payment are calculated and processed here.

The Human Resource Director serves as a Board member on the Property and Casualty Board of Directors and the Health Trust Board. Quarterly meetings are attended by the director in order to ensure that



Hardee County has a voice in the decision making and is updated on new regulations regarding insurance.

In the 2005 year Hardee County successfully received funding from the Small County Technical Assistance Services to provide Excel training for ten employees. Our department will continue to strive to provide additional education opportunities for staff.



### Hurricane Recovery

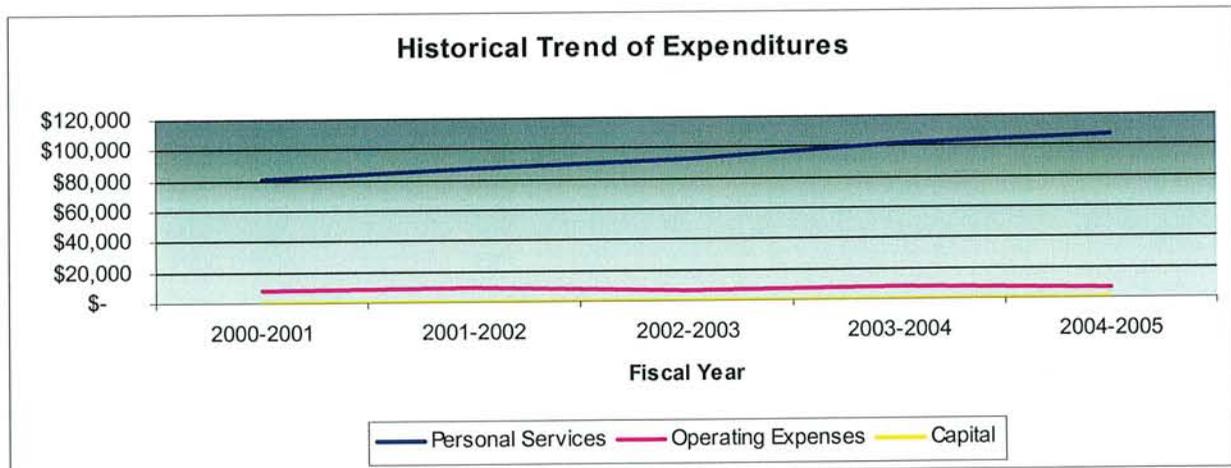
The employees of the Human Resource Department were active in the Emergency Operations Center, during and immediately after activation in the call center. Information was compiled, made available and broadcast to Hardee county residents, their families, and outside agencies following the destruction. Some other services the Human Resource Department provided in relation to the recovery process included providing FEMA with reports on salaries, overtime and benefits for County employees in order to assist in the reimbursement process. In addition H/R assisted in submitting costs for reimbursement, for employees who provided mutual aid for hurricane Katrina and Wilma .



## Goals and Objectives for 2006

The goals and objectives of the Human Resource Department is to ensure the employees of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners salaries and benefits are comparable with outside agencies. With this goal in mind, we will be conducting a salary survey in the upcoming year to accomplish this task. The Human Resource Department is developing and administering various skills tests for potential new hires to ensure qualified applicants are chosen for employment.

Human Resources						
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	
Personal Services \$	80,737	\$ 86,904	\$ 93,196	\$ 101,106	\$ 107,231	
Operating Expenses \$	8,228	\$ 8,588	\$ 6,922	\$ 7,297	\$ 7,105	
Capital \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>88,965</b>	<b>\$ 95,492</b>	<b>\$ 100,118</b>	<b>\$ 108,403</b>	<b>\$ 114,336</b>	



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Economic Development Office (EDO), comprised of an Economic Development Specialist and an Economic Development Director, was established in March 2001 (following restructuring of county organizations) to assist with complicated economic development (ED) issues, projects and related ad hoc committees. The EDO



provides managing and administrative support to the County's Industrial Development Authority (IDA), Enterprise Zone Development Agency (EZDA), Airport Task Force (ATF) and the Range Cattle Station & Research Center Steering Committee (RCSRC-SC). In 2003 the EDO Director assumed the additional responsibility of infrastructure enabling manager for the County's new water and wastewater utilities system and, in 2004, managing developer for the IDA's new Hardee County Commerce Park and Property Owner's Association.

### **Mission Statement**

The Hardee County EDO focus is to diversify the economic base, recruit quality primary jobs for local citizens, which will provide sustainable economic development to meet the needs of the present citizens without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, while seeking to improve our quality of life.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

The year was marked by existing businesses looking toward future diversity,

supported entrepreneurs and investors opening new businesses or in early stages of housing development, and additional new revenue sources were locked in to support needed infrastructure advances.

The EDO acknowledges the unprecedented accomplishments realized in 2003-04 through foresight, leadership and tireless, concerted efforts of the County "Team". Many projects are carry-overs from last year which have been in the plans for considerable time and were effectively orchestrated this past year. Other needs have moved from concept through funding, to development or execution in record time. Some activities of particular impact this fiscal year include:

- The legislature approved this year an increase in mining activities-related severance taxes paid to the County each year. This increased share to the County, as supported in partnership by the phosphate industry could significantly increase funding for basic infrastructure planning, availability, and capacity providing stimulus to ED controlled growth far into the future.
- The Hardee County Industrial Development Authority began planning, design, permitting and development of the "Hardee County Commerce Park"



*Hardee County Commerce Park*

this year. Through use of County in-house efforts, construction costs were expected to be reduced. However due to essential County hurricane recovery efforts, outside contracting became necessary.

- Monumental steps occurred this year toward expanding economic development basic infrastructure in bringing on-line and beginning hookup of customers to Wastewater Treatment Plants at Vandolah Road and near Wauchula Hills, as well as a potable



Consecutive Water System along a significant commercial corridor of U.S. 17 and S.R. 62.

Of particular note is the successful City of Wauchula and County partnership in the Operation & Maintenance of the three plants.

- The School Board received notice this year that the State had approved \$35 million in funding for construction of a new K-8 school. The EDO participated in the school technical advisory



group to advise and assist overcoming infrastructure considerations.

- South Florida Community College Adjunct Facility in Hardee County completed its first year of providing vital service to the community and has established among other training two powerful programs—nursing and power line technician. This economic development basic element is allowing workforce training partnerships to expand business potential and job creation.

- Construction began on the County's first brand-name hotel through a complicated and dedicated partnership between Cobb Construction



(owner/developer),

Wauchula State Bank, Mosaic, and PRECO.

- County EDO marketing material and improvements funding was received through a grant provided by the Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative and its many sponsors. Materials generated have assisted in disseminating information to potential site selecting entities and also in communicating available resources and activities to existing community businesses.
- Expanded quality housing opportunities are ongoing: the USDA-supported Farm Labor Housing Complex phase II construction was delayed due to hurricane trailers placed on site to house the many dislocated residents of the community; the privately developed 120-unit Country Manor Apartments was completed early in the year and has averaged near full occupancy.
- New Sprint state-of-the-art telecommunication switching stations with expanded capabilities were placed in service throughout the county, which will enable opportunity for businesses previously not considered and improve quality of life.
- Business assistance visits were performed during the year to provide information on such incentives as the



*Country Manor Apartments*

state-created Enterprise Zone corridors and Federal HUBZONE advantages. The EDO provided assistance to over 85 separate client requests for information over the fiscal year, including startup or expansion businesses in various phases of development.

### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

- The Hardee County Industrial Development Authority began marketing an infrastructure development of the “Hardee County Commerce Park”. Planned initially through County in-house efforts, development progress escalated upon the decision to apply available first year ED severance tax receipts. The park is to provide opportunity for quality job creation through enabling a location for valuable recruited/expanding businesses to build and grow. During 2005, nearly a third of the lots were sold to new county businesses planning to open in early 2006.
- Demonstrating continued partnership with regional organizations, the EDO as a member of the Florida Heartland REDI and Heartland Workforce Investment Board assisted in the creation of a Business Assistance Specialist available through One Stop Employment Offices.
- A new business which secured a Governor’s Office/EDO/IDA \$100k loan to begin operation was able to pay off the loan after only three years.
- The County’s first brand-name hotel opened during the year offering high quality rooms for business clients and tourists in the area. Also, the School Board officially broke ground this year for a new K-8 school with planned opening August 2006. County water and waste water lines were extended and connected to both sites.



residential projects continues steadfastly in efforts toward design & permit. This project has regional impact of tremendous scale for improving future opportunities.



*U.S. Highway 17*

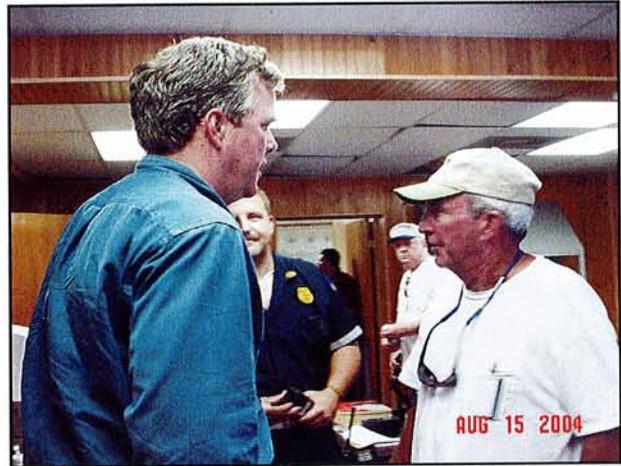
**Hurricane Recovery**

Both visible and behind-the-scenes ED progress burst in August 2004 when Hurricane Charley invaded our community. Driving destruction directly through the center of the County, Charley damaged or destroyed over 80% of business facilities and 75% of homes. Hurricane Frances and Jeanne exacerbated conditions as they struck the County within the next month with wind and torrential rain and flood damage.



The leadership and strong efforts of the County Commissioners, City Councils, their staff and countless volunteers have carried throughout the banner of faith and survival. Not surprisingly, the "Peoples' Spirit" of a small, rural community has quickly risen above this calamitous

era of almost debilitating magnitude and is now refocusing on building toward a better future. The outpouring of immediate, and in many cases ongoing partnerships with emergency recovery-oriented government and private organizations, has borne further strength, vision and resolve within the community.



USDA, the Governor, and legislative representatives, among many others have visited our proud County frequently since the storms with the consistent message strong, heartfelt offers of assistance.

- The EDO facilitated the business recovery bridge loan program for a three county area following the hurricanes. These no interest loans totaling



*Bowling Green  
Hurricane Charley Food Distribution*

\$1,895,500 assisted 87 businesses (890+ employees) and, in Hardee County alone, 45 businesses (over 480 employees) obtaining \$979,500 in immediate funding to return to operation.

- Developed through National Emergency Grant funding was a first-ever listing and survey of all locatable businesses in the County. Informational material was also provided to all businesses during these on site visits on Enterprise Zone and HUB-ZONE benefits available.

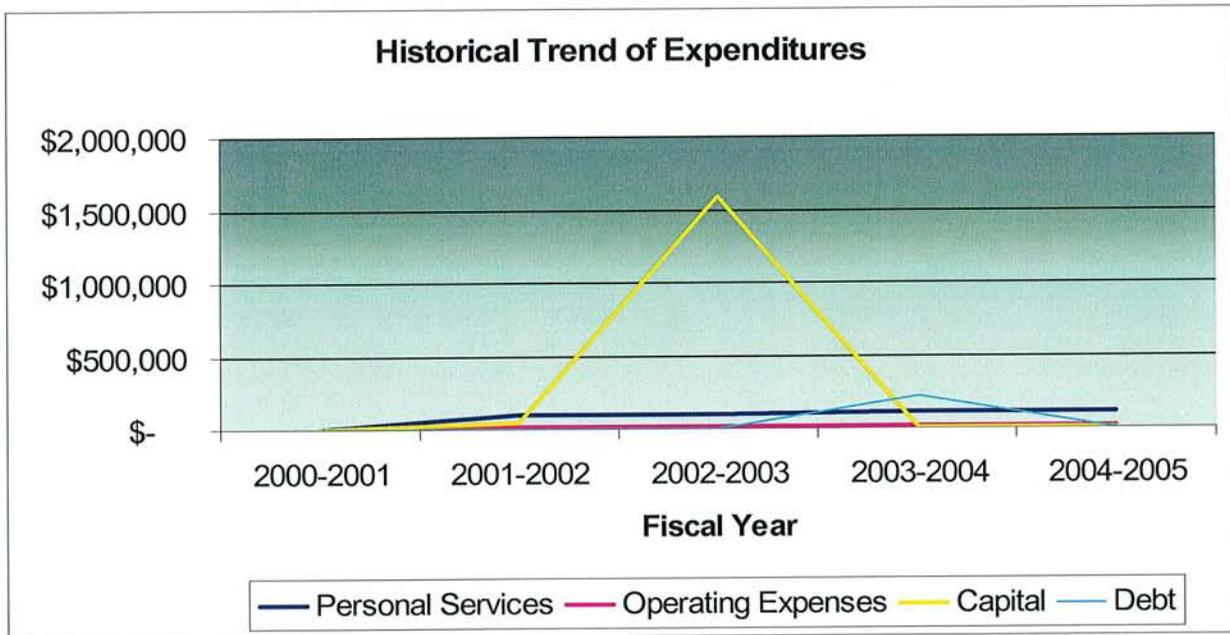
### **Goals and Objectives for 2006**

A multitude of projects are in progress or in initial phases of funding which are seen by the community as necessary in setting the foundations of opportunity and recovery. The strong efforts of the County Commissioners combined with direct County Manager support have focused on initiating infrastructure revitalization, a fundamental tenet to ED success, 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.

Price of developable land in the county has risen dramatically over 2004 and 2005. The phase II and beyond capacity and line expansions of the County's water & wastewater plants, as well as the completion of the commerce park and its availability for job creation, are both necessary fundamental precursors to the future success of the County.

Work efforts continued or programmed from the EDO for 2006 include: assist in the BOCC effort to successfully reincarnate an Economic Development Council; facilitate the water & wastewater utility system expansion and initiate/improve management processes; complete development and broadly market the Hardee County Commerce Park; increase internet business and tourism visibility of the County, including an ED information database; continue business assistance with vision and incentives awareness; participate in opportunities to specifically market Hardee County attributes and incentives; move forward in soliciting ad hoc community and business committee strategic planning and marketing efforts; remain supportive in the possibility of development of a cargo-based airport.

<b>Economic Development</b>					
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b> \$	-	\$ 97,919	\$ 94,293	\$ 104,042	\$ 109,147
<b>Operating Expenses</b> \$	-	\$ 9,106	\$ 8,112	\$ 12,603	\$ 8,300
<b>Capital</b> \$	-	\$ 35,681	\$ 1,584,611	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Debt</b> \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220,000	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b> \$	-	\$ 142,706	\$ 1,687,016	\$ 336,645	\$ 117,447



## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/ PARKS & RECREATIONS**

These departments, directly intertwined as they share management staff as well as salaried personnel, consist of Director of Facilities, 31 full-time employees, 3 part-time employees, and 1 temporary employee. Courthouse Security employees are included in this staff number.



The Building and Grounds Department is responsible for the maintenance of all County-owned buildings. The Parks and Recreation Department keeps up with all Recreational Areas including Pioneer Park, Hardee Park and Hardee Lakes Park.



Planning, coordination, and dedication are required in order to successfully maintain the buildings and their surrounding areas without interrupting access to county offices by residents. Existing buildings are kept in good condition in order to accommodate the needs of the occupants. In-house personnel are utilized for maintenance, as well as all phases of construction. Building and Grounds staff also build new structures that are utilized by County personnel. Using county staff eliminates the need for outside contractors, which results in a great monetary benefit to the County and its residents. Many times extended work hours are needed to operate and maintain our parks as well.

## **Mission Statement**

The purpose of both the Buildings and Grounds Department and the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for all County Staff as well as the general public that visit county facilities and recreational areas. It is the objective of both departments to meet and exceed the needs and expectations of a continually growing and changing community.

## **2003/04**

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

October of 2003 began another extremely busy year for the departments. During this year, with the assistance of the Road &



Bridge Department, Hardee Lakes Park was opened after constructing roadways and a parking area. Two boat ramps and a boat dock were built, and construction began on the Park Manager's house.



At the Animal Refuge in Pioneer Park, the otter pen, bear pen, fox pen, and the bobcat pen were completed.

Other significant non-routine maintenance tasks include:

- Began replacement of the water system inside the Jail at the Sheriff's Complex, which is a lengthy process due to quantity of work and work hours available.

- Finishing touches were put on the Annex I remodeling project, and all offices were relocated back to their appropriate areas.
- The building at 202 South 9th Avenue which houses the Tri-County Office (and now shared with Red Cross) were remodeled.
- The Public Defender's office moved to a new location that would better accommodate their staff. This building was also remodeled.
- The County maintenance crew assisted the School Board Maintenance crew in making necessary repairs on the swimming pool at the Recreation Complex, and assisted in moving a solar heating system that was donated to the school from the City of Vero Beach.

## **2004/05**

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

This year work continued at Hardee Lakes Park. Building of two bathrooms and four picnic shelters was completed, and there was continued construction on the Park Manager's House. Boat ramps and docks were created for Lakes 3 and 4. Although the park is still under construction, it is open to the public on weekends for fishing and picnicking.

At the Sheriff's Complex, replacement of the water system on the jail side was completed.

Buildings and Grounds staff assisted Fleet Maintenance with the installation of a new generator for the EOC building.

In the Courthouse, a closet was constructed that will contain equipment for the Court-smart recording system for Courtrooms A and B.

Although there were many obstacles to overcome in the past year, most of the annual events that take place at Pioneer Park were right on schedule. Pioneer Park Days was held the first full weekend in March. This annual event features a flea market, antique tractors, engines and cars. Entertainment this year was provided by some of the exhibitors known as the "Pioneer Park Jammers".

The Heartland Dog Show was also held the third weekend of April. As always, this was a great opportunity for animal lovers to enjoy watching some of the finest breeds of dogs compete.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we were able to host the annual fireworks display at the park but due to the destruction of the stage by Hurricane Charley, entertainment was not provided.

The Animal Refuge continues to be a great asset to Pioneer Park and to the community. The refuge was closed most of the year, as the grounds and pens were in need of repair or clean-up after the storms. The refuge re-opened to the public on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The refuge, nestled in natural habitat, is a pleasant place for those who visit, as well as the animals who live inside. Prior to the storms, the refuge entertained approximately 1,400 guests each month. The refuge houses 2 bears, 2 cougars, 3 ostriches, 6 raccoons, 2 foxes, 1 alligator, 6 deer, 2 river otter and 2 bobcats.

At Hardee Park on Sunday afternoon you can still catch a great game of Soccer. Hardee County Soccer league competes on a regular basis at the park. Hardee Park also offers picnic shelters for family outings and a wooded area where you can take a stroll.

## **Hurricane Recovery**

After Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne roared through our county, there was an abundance of work to be performed to provide necessary assistance to the public and County Staff.

At Pioneer Park, County Staff and volunteers camping at the park cleaned up debris that had fallen during the storms in order for the park to be ready for Pioneer Park Days. The electricians on staff were also busy at the park preparing camp sites for temporary housing for FEMA trailers and for the Apostolic Relief workers that stayed at the park. The recreation hall was also used as headquarters for FEMA workers helping individuals across the County.



At Hardee Lakes and Hardee Park countless hours were spent cleaning up trees and debris.

Temporary Fire Stations for Bowling Green and Zolfo Springs were set up in FEMA trailers. Shelters were built at the temporary sites to protect the equipment.

## **Goals and Objectives for 2006**

At Hardee Lakes Park, we will complete construction of the Park Manager's house, construct fishing piers, and develop the trails system within the park.



We will also build a boardwalk through the conservation easement.

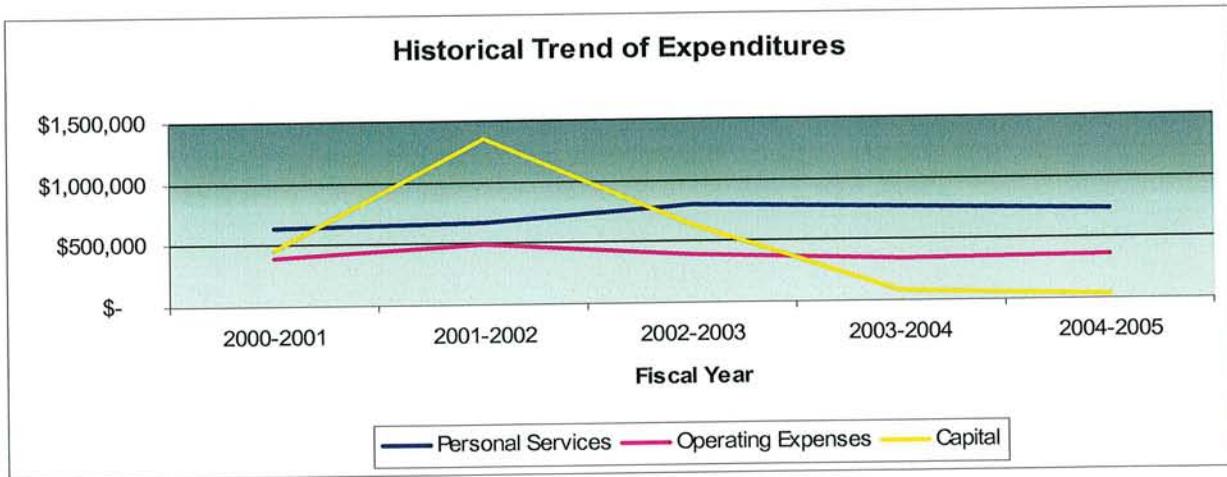
At the Court House Complex we will complete the EOC Enhancements and construct a long term records storage facility.

At Annex II, plans are to expand all the offices inside the facility. There will no longer be rental office space in the building. Plans are to utilize the space, currently used as hallways, to gain much needed office space.

As in years past, we will continue to maintain a strong working relationship with 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. Doing so enables our departments 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.

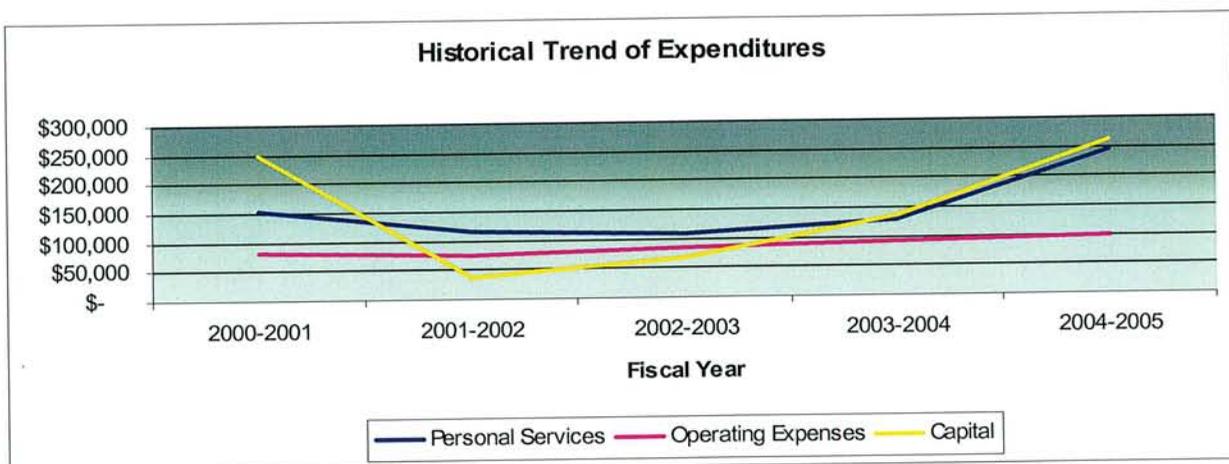
### Buildings and Grounds

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Personal Services \$	629,189	\$ 676,525	\$ 790,885	\$ 758,833	\$ 725,790
Operating Expenses \$	394,034	\$ 486,018	\$ 397,342	\$ 338,979	\$ 362,972
Capital \$	454,729	\$ 1,357,260	\$ 632,094	\$ 85,145	\$ 35,560
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>1,477,952</b>	<b>\$ 2,519,803</b>	<b>\$ 1,820,321</b>	<b>\$ 1,182,957</b>	<b>\$ 1,124,322</b>



### Parks and Recreation

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Personal Services \$	153,420	\$ 115,612	\$ 109,052	\$ 129,488	\$ 245,204
Operating Expenses \$	81,776	\$ 74,571	\$ 86,133	\$ 90,601	\$ 99,534
Capital \$	248,616	\$ 35,873	\$ 66,966	\$ 135,273	\$ 264,130
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>483,812</b>	<b>\$ 226,056</b>	<b>\$ 262,151</b>	<b>\$ 355,362</b>	<b>\$ 608,868</b>



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND  
GENERAL SERVICES**

The Office of Community Development evolved in October 1997 as a result of the 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. By December 2003, this office became the core of all grant activity for the County.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

**2003-2004 ACTIVITIES  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

A CDBG Housing Grant in the amount of \$750,000 was awarded to OCD in the Spring of 2004. This grant targets very low and low income families to repair safety and code violations to their housing units. OCD also administered our annual allocation of SHIP funding in the amount of \$350,000 for rehabilitating single family units as well as providing down payment and closing cost assistance to first time home-buyers. Funding from these programs is also being used to assist victims of the 2004 hurricane season.

OCD also administered recreational grants from:

- Florida Boating Improvement Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grants for the development of Hardee Lakes Park as well as Animal Refuge Improvements at Pioneer Park.

Additionally, OCD played a major role in the health care needs of our community by continuing to be very active with the Health Care Task Force. We administered our second year of a three year grant for both the Primary Care Challenge Grant and the Closing The Gap Grant. The Primary Care grant assists the medically underserved and uninsured members of our Community. This grant award was for \$103,000. In order to serve this large population, the County leveraged an additional cash match of \$25,750. The Closing The Gap grant was in the amount of \$111,811. This funding addresses the racial and ethnic disparities in primary care, targeting diabetic and pre-diabetic residents. A diabetes control program has been established with this funding to provide ongoing education to persons with diabetes.

Various other grant programs were administered by OCD such as a Court-house Renovation grant in the amount of \$27,360 to repair the exterior stucco damage to prevent further rain intrusion.

**2004-2005 ACTIVITIES  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

♦ **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

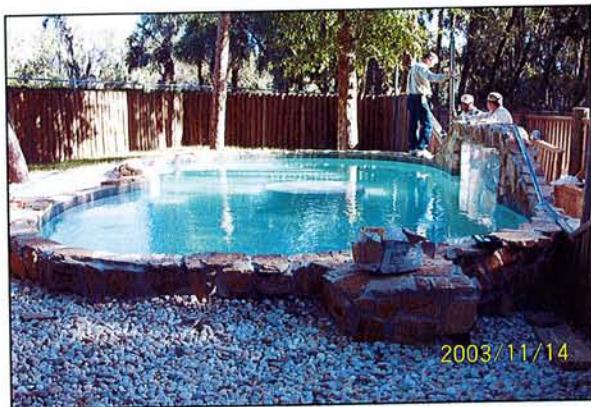
During FY 2004/2005, we received \$20,150 from the Community Services Block Grant, to assist Hope of Hardee in providing 623 units of homemaker services and 739 units of home delivered

meals to the elderly residents within our County. Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) also receives partial funding to employ four full-time, low-income residents of Hardee County. This grant continues to be renewed annually.

◆ **Pioneer Park Animal Refuge**

A \$75,000 FRDAP grant was awarded in June 2002 for the next phase of the Animal Refuge. During FY 04/05, construction was completed which provided an otter pool and pen, bird aviary, a bobcat pen, and a bear pool.

◆ **Cracker Trail Museum**



A general operating support grant was applied for and received through the State Division of Historical Resources to offset 20% of the total operating costs. Due to State budget cuts, our appropriation was reduced to \$1,625.44.

◆ **Hardee Lakes Park**

Construction on boat ramps and docks for Hardee Lakes was completed in 04/05, which had begun in FY 02/03 from a grant received in the amount of \$66,775 from the Florida Boating Improvement Program.

This is the third successful grant that we have received for the development of Hardee Lakes Park, which represents a total of \$416,775 received in grant funding.



◆ **State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)**

The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) is an entitlement program of \$350,000 to Hardee County each year. The Local Housing Assistance Plan was revised as of July 2003 as required by the state every three years. The program includes strategies for rehabilitation, home purchase assistance and disaster recovery. Previously there was a separate strategy for Emergency Repair with a housing unit limit of \$3,250. Many emergency repairs are exceeding that limit



with the rising costs of material and labor. The Emergency strategy has now been included within the Rehabilitation Strategy, which has a maximum limit of \$15,000 per housing unit. This grant includes strategies for owner-occupied, single-family units where the total income and assets of the household meet the SHIP program requirements.

The following table is provided to in-

dicated by Program, the number of individual housing units served by the SHIP Program for the last two fiscal years. The rehabilitation Program assists quali-

SHIP Program	FY 03-04	FY 04-05	Total Units To Date
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	34	31	277
<b>Emergency</b>	50	19	401
<b>Home Purchase</b>	16	8	78
<b>Total</b>	100	58	756

fied homeowners with housing repairs to provide a healthy and safe living environment. This includes elimination of code violations, safety and/or sanitation issues, and to provide alterations to accommodate physically challenged household members. Sixty-eight applications were processed for this strategy.

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

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

The Homeownership Assistance Program provides financial assistance toward down payment and closing costs for first time homebuyers that qualify.



Previously, the three income categories for assistance received the same amount of assistance. As of July 2003, the strategy has been revised to assist more people. Forty-five applications were processed for this strategy.

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

The Vandolah Sewer Service Area project has been completed and is fully operational. The plant has the capacity to treat 75,000 gallons per day. Two grants in the amount of \$1.1 million funded this entire project. This plant will serve as a revenue source for Hardee County as more customers are connected.



## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Community Development also provides assistance for clients with outside programs for which they may be eligible. Use of office space is coordinated with other agencies to meet with clients locally.

### **◆ Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Inc.**

Centro Campesino provides many services to several of our clients through many different program funds they receive. They serve several different counties with the following federal grant programs: Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Low Income Emergency Home Repair Program (LEHRP), and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Centro Campesino serves many homeowners with mobile homes in our county, which are not eligible under our programs. Centro has provided assis-



tance to many of our clients for wheelchair ramps, windows and doors. The assistance they provide is used as leverage funds in our grant programs. Forty-four applications were received and forwarded to this program.

### **◆ Manatee Opportunity Council**

Hardee County is a member of the Manatee Opportunity Council, which also provides assistance for our local residents. One significant service they have provided to our clients is foreclosure counseling and assistance.

### **◆ Polk Opportunity Council**

Hardee County is also assisted by Polk Opportunity Council for which OCD acts as liaison for programs such as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

### **◆ Heart of Florida Legal Society, Inc.**

Legal assistance in the areas of family law and victims of domestic violence is provided free for qualifying low-income persons. Heart of Florida utilizes our office space on a monthly basis to assist Hardee County residents.

### **◆ Florida Rural Legal Services — Lakeland**

Other types of legal assistance including real estate issues and credit counseling are provided to income eligible residents by Florida Rural Legal Services. Approval for 4 mortgages were obtained.

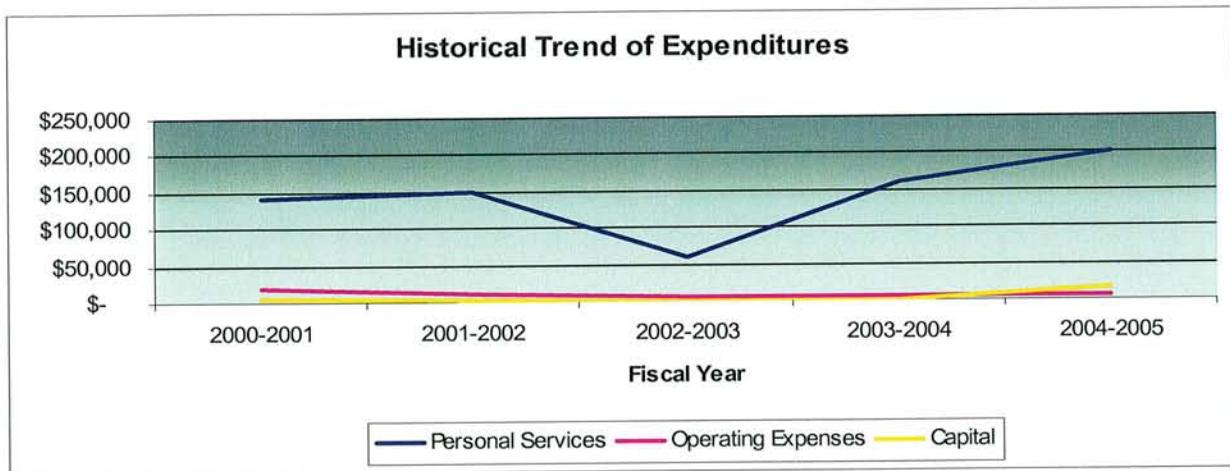
## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2006**

OCD's goal for 2006 is to pursue additional grant funding to further develop our Community. Below are projects that we have targeted to seek and ascertain grant funding for:

- Development of a soccer field and ball complex
- Development of non-motorized trail for Hardee Lakes
- Health Care assistance program Grants
- General Operating Support for Cracker Trail Museum
- \$750,000 CDBG housing rehabilitation

**Community Development**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services \$</b>	141,620 \$	149,664 \$	59,731 \$	159,372 \$	201,690
<b>Operating Expenses \$</b>	18,195 \$	11,890 \$	5,400 \$	6,717 \$	4,888
<b>Capital \$</b>	4,741 \$	2,149 \$	- \$	- \$	17,518
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>164,556 \$</b>	<b>163,703 \$</b>	<b>65,131 \$</b>	<b>166,089 \$</b>	<b>224,096</b>





**HARDEE COUNTY**  
**BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT**  
**CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 2004 – SEPTEMBER 2005**

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>COLLECTED</u>
BUILDING PERMIT	857	\$257,677.43
SURCHARGE	199	\$ 3,784.49
ELECTRICAL PERMIT	392	\$ 12,955.00
PLUMBING PERMIT	3	\$ 196.00
MECHANICAL PERMIT	58	\$ 3,375.00
ROOFING PERMIT	1325	\$106,945.50
MOBILE HOME/PK MDL	259	\$ 66,523.36
MOBILE HOME PRE-INSP.	14	\$ 1,400.00
COMMERCIAL HOOD	4	\$ 486.00
MISCELLANEOUS PERMIT	56	\$ 4,257.00
GAS PERMIT	32	\$ 1,040.00
ALARM PERMIT	19	\$ 900.00
PLANS REVIEW FEE		\$ 17,350.00
DEMOLITION PERMIT	32	\$ 1,750.00
REINSPECTION FEE	44	\$ 1,100.00
MISC. (COPIES, ETC)		\$ 265.70
SWIMMING POOL	18	\$ 3,939.50
TOWERS	1	\$ 625.00
RE-ZONE	4	\$ 1,100.00
EXCEPT. TO POLICY LI.15	16	\$ 5,500.00
TEMP. SPECIAL USE PERMIT	8	\$ 1,750.00
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	1	\$ 655.00
MINOR S/D	30	\$ 7,864.00
FIRE REVIEW	20	\$ 1,550.00
COMPETENCY CARDS		\$ 676.45

**TOTAL FEES COLLECTED:    \$501,388.62**

TOTAL INSPECTIONS:	COUNTY	2,477
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	COUNTY	\$344,516.31
TOTAL INSPECTIONS:	CITY B.G.	177
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	CITY B.G.	\$ 16,976.40
TOTAL INSPECTIONS:	CITY WAUC	593
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	CITY WAUC	\$ 74,801.12
TOTAL INSPECTIONS:	TWN Z.S.	211
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED:	TWN Z.S.	\$ 25,883.64
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>3,458</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 462,177.47</b>	

<u>BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES</u>	<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>COLLECTED</u>
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE	313	\$ 162,900.36
TWO-FAMILY BLDGS.	4	\$ 2,715.52
MOBILE HOMES	93	\$ 22,098.36
OFFICES, BANKS, PROFESSIONAL	17	\$ 5,627.00
SCHOOLS/OTHER EDUC.	1	\$ 0.00
STORES/CUSTOMER SERV.	14	\$ 11,577.08
OTHER NON-RESIDENTIAL BLDG	12	\$ 397,588.00
STRUCTURES NOT BLDG	27	\$ 2,377.14
RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS	2608	\$ 364,924.37
NON-RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS	133	\$ 29,028.19
MOBILE HOME ADDITIONS	32	\$ 1,936.40

**TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION    \$51,575,079.00**

<u>DEMOLITION</u>		
S/F HOUSES	21	\$ 8,282.50

**TOTAL PERMITS:                            4,276**

## **BUILDING AND ZONING**

### **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 orderly growth in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code; to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Hardee County by ensuring that all structures are constructed according to adopted codes and ordinances.

### **2003-2004 Activities and Accomplishments**

In 2003-2004 of the 2,401 permits issued some of the more interesting projects were Burger King, Country Manor Apartments, Sun-Coast Schools Federal Credit Union, Taco Express, the addition to the Panda Restaurant, Graham Tax Office, Colon Law Office, Pete's Pharmacy, the County Wastewater Treatment Plant on St Rd 62, remodeling of the City of Wauchula offices and construction of Wells Insurance Company.



The Chief Building Inspector position was filled and the Building and Zoning Department welcomed a new Building Inspector.

The FY 2003-04 Budget included one B/Z Director, one Office Manager, one Chief Inspector, one Building Inspector, one Executive Assistant, one Permit Technician and one Code Enforcement Officer.

The Building Department issued 2,401 permits and conducted 1,831 field inspections, five of which were re-inspections and over 114 courtesy inspections to determine structural stability and/or repairs necessary to bring the structures to minimum standard housing code.

The Zoning Department processed the usual zoning modification applications for Special Exceptions, Exceptions to Policy L1.15 of the Comprehensive Plan, Temporary Special Use Permits, Site Development Plan approvals and Rezones.

A Special Exception was granted for an adult day-care facility located on 10 acres of Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., and a Special Exception for a child day-care center on Chamberlain Blvd.

The Hardee County Commerce Park was successful in its bid for a rezoning of 160 acres from Farm-Residential to Commercial/Industrial Business Center on State Road 62.

A rezoning was granted to 89.24 acres from Agriculture to Farm-Residential along South Florida Avenue/Altman Road/Alex Hendry Road/Johns Road for a planned unit development. A rezoning from F-R to Two-Family Residential was granted for single-family dwellings on 68.77 acres on or about Whippoorwill Lane.

A K-8 (kindergarten through eighth grade) School request for rezoning from F-R to Public Institutional was granted

on 60 acres on or about Keeton Road/US Highway 17. A development of 74 single-family home sites to be known as Orange Walk was granted a rezoning from Agricultural to Multiple Family Residential on or about Heard Bridge Road and Tuskenugee Trail.



In 2003-2004 the Code Enforcement Officer evaluated 1,091 cases, 361 complaints were filed, 110 citations were issued, 366 door hangers were posted, 108 stop work orders were issued, 488 follow-up inspections were conducted and 382 cases were closed. Fines paid from citations totaled \$18,725. A total of \$6,025 was filed in liens from unpaid fines. The CEO also conducted 35 pre-inspections for pre-owned mobile homes.

### **2004-2005 Activities and Accomplishments**

Hardee County welcomed the new construction of the Sonic Restaurant, Best Western Hotel, Amscot, Auto-Zone, and Movie Gallery. Renovations of three Circle K Stores, Mid-Florida Hardware, Bill's Muffler and Brakes, OK Tire, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Dollar General, Department of Children and Families, and Winn-Dixie were welcomed projects for Hardee County residents. The Code Enforcement Department initiated multiple demolitions of dangerous and unsafe structures throughout the County and

worked with residents to clean up junk and debris from properties.

The Fiscal Year 2004-05 Budget included one Building/Zoning Official, one Office Manager, one Executive Assistant, one Permit Technician, one Chief Building Inspector, one Building Inspector and one Code Enforcement Officer.

The Building Department issued 3,065 permits and conducted 3,458 field inspections. Inspectors also conducted 14 pre-inspections for pre-owned mobile homes and over 800 courtesy inspections to determine structural stability and/or repairs necessary to bring the structures to minimum standard housing code.

The Zoning Department processed requests for Special Exceptions, Exceptions to Policy L1.15 of the "Comp Plan", Temporary Special Use Permits, Site Development Plan approvals and Rezones in addition to 30 minor subdivision plats.

A Special Exception was granted for an adult assisted living facility on Florida Avenue just South of Carlton Street, a child daycare center on Sally Place, and a convenience store on State Road 64 just east of 7 Mile Point.

Final Site Development Plans were approval for the residents of the Hardee County Commerce Park, to wit: Organix South, Scosta Truss Manufacturing Corporation and Milano Tile Distribution Center/Retail Store.

Rezoning for single-family dwellings included 32.44 acres from F-R to R-3 on Thompson Drive/Altman Road and 259 acres from A-1 to F-R on Parnell Road. A developer was successful in the bid for a rezoning of 10MOL acres from A-1 to R-3 for town-houses on Heard Bridge Road just north of the Wauchula city limits. A rezoning from F-R to R-2 was granted to 10MOL acres on Martin Luther King Jr.

Avenue for the development of individually-owned townhouses and condominiums. A 113.45-acre active adult homesites community received a rezoning from F-R to R-3 to include amenities such as a recreation center, adult assisted living facility and medical offices on Florida Avenue/Metheny Road. A Major Special Exception was granted to a 57.86MOL-acre-parcel on Parnell Road for the care, housing, breeding and selling of exotic animals.

Approval of a Final Site Development Plan was granted to the Center for Orangutan and Chimpanzee Conservation to continue the non-profit sanctuary, and a Final Site Development Plan approval was granted for a community center on Mowatt Street. Vandolah Estates Phase I received its Final Site Development Plan approval for the development of 112 single-family dwellings on Vandolah Road.

In May 2005, Elihoreph Ltd was granted a rezoning of 96.07MOL acres from A-1 to R-3 for single-family dwellings in a planned unit development on Florida Avenue near State Road 64 West.

One of the major services the Zoning Department provides to the general citizenry is zoning determination and information data sheets. Those sheets answer specific questions and cite regulations from the Unified Land Development Code in an effort to help inquirers know what can be done with a parcel of land before development plans are made.

In Fiscal Year 2004-05 the Code Enforcement Officer initiated 1,762 cases, 435 complaints were filed (87 of which were determined to be unfounded), issued 67 citations, issued 72 stop work orders, made 786 follow-up inspections, closed 1,192 cases, and issued citations that amounted to \$19,625.

## **HURRICANE RECOVERY**

The lives of Hardee Countians were turned upside down during the 2004 hurricane season. Four back-to-back hurricanes left the County devastated and the residents in a quandary over the need for massive repairs or replacements



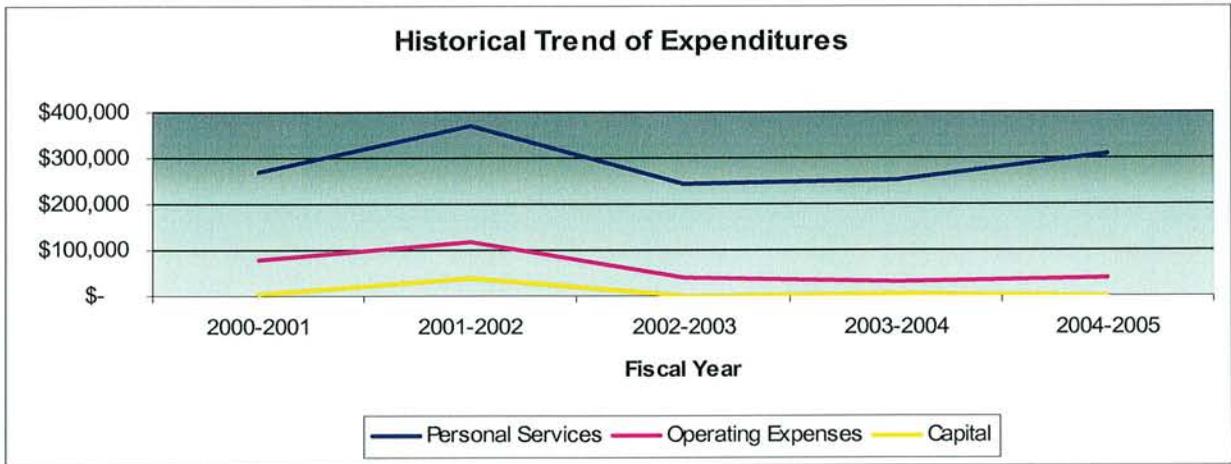
of dwellings and businesses. Approximately 1,500 hand-written permits were issued after the storms for emergency repairs while computer systems were inoperative. The Building and Zoning Department spent countless hours in overtime assisting residents and contractors with development permits, conducting damage evaluations and sending damage evaluation reports to property owners.



The Building and Zoning Department will continue its goal to streamline development permit processes and to provide accurate zoning and land use data.

**Building and Zoning**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b> \$	269,869	\$ 368,843	\$ 243,202	\$ 254,112	\$ 308,015
<b>Operating Expenses</b> \$	79,675	\$ 118,745	\$ 40,098	\$ 31,758	\$ 39,909
<b>Capital</b> \$	4,855	\$ 39,363	\$ -	\$ 3,800	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b> \$	<b>354,399</b>	<b>\$ 526,951</b>	<b>\$ 283,300</b>	<b>\$ 289,670</b>	<b>\$ 347,924</b>



## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Emergency Management is responsible for the planning, mitigation, response and recovery of all hazards, be they natural, technical, or man-made. Hardee County's Emergency Management Department and its EOC (Emergency Operations Center) was praised as a "model agency" by the State Department of Emergency Management during Hurricane Season 2004. This department is also responsible for emergency management activities for the municipalities of Wauchula, Bowling Green, and Zolfo Springs. Preparing for every disaster from high wind events and flooding to acts of domestic terrorism is what emergency management is all about.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Hardee County Emergency Management is to safeguard and protect the lives and property of Hardee County citizens by reducing vulnerability from disasters both natural and man-made.

2003-2005 were very busy years for Emergency Management. The events of August and September 2004 were only a portion of the overall activities undertaken by our department. There have been many important events during the past two years including:

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

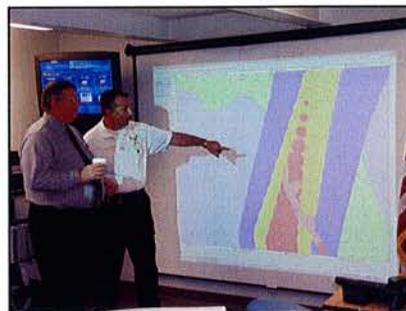
- Facilitated hundreds of hours of training for Fire Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Public Works employees.
- Continued to upgrade the security features of the EOC building.
- Tied all stations in the operations room to the network, increasing the communications capability.
- Purchased new command vehicle.

- Updated the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan to meet new state standards.

### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

- Secured grants for and installed new 100kW generator and ID Card system.
- Purchased Notebook Computer and projector.
- Designed and facilitated several tabletop and practical exercises.
- Major participant and host to "Operation Restore Power", the largest full-scale domestic terrorism exercise in the Southeast United States.
- Secured grants in excess of \$60,000 for EOC security enhancements and training.
- Guided Hardee County through three major hurricanes.
- Deployed personnel to Hancock County and Hattiesburg, Mississippi as part of the Hurricane Katrina response.
- Deployed personnel to Glades and Hendry County as part of Hurricane Wilma response.

### **Hurricane Recovery**

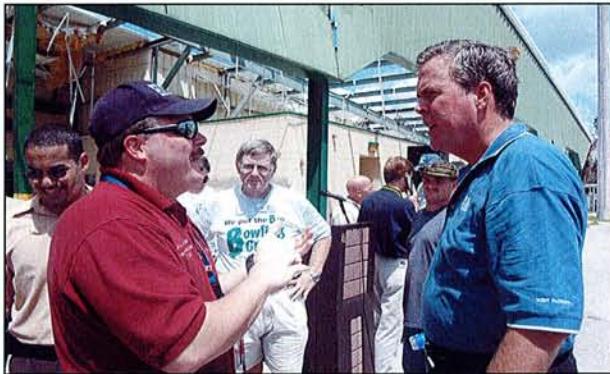


Hardee County Emergency Management coordinated the overwhelming response of hundreds of relief workers

and volunteers from across Florida and the country. Disaster relief agencies from neighboring states assisted in getting us back on our feet.

Our department has been and continues to be the lead agency in hurricane recovery and mitigation. To date, we have enacted the following recovery/mitigation programs:

- Rewrite the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) to reflect the changes in Hardee County post August 13, 2004.
- Administer the funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Project (HMGP) funds.
- Continue to be the media point of contact for updates on the recovery process.
- Work closely with the state mitigation office and FEMA as our long-term recovery progresses.



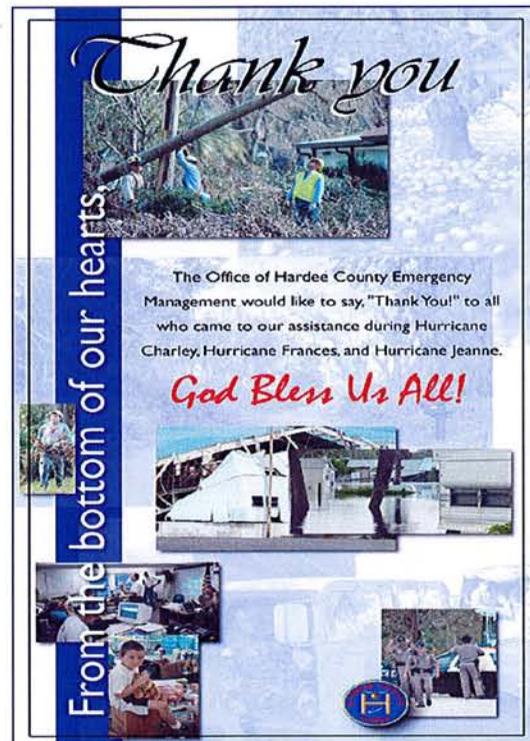
### Goals and Objectives for 2006

Hardee County Emergency Management will continue to lead the way in preparing for the future. Some of our goals and objectives include:

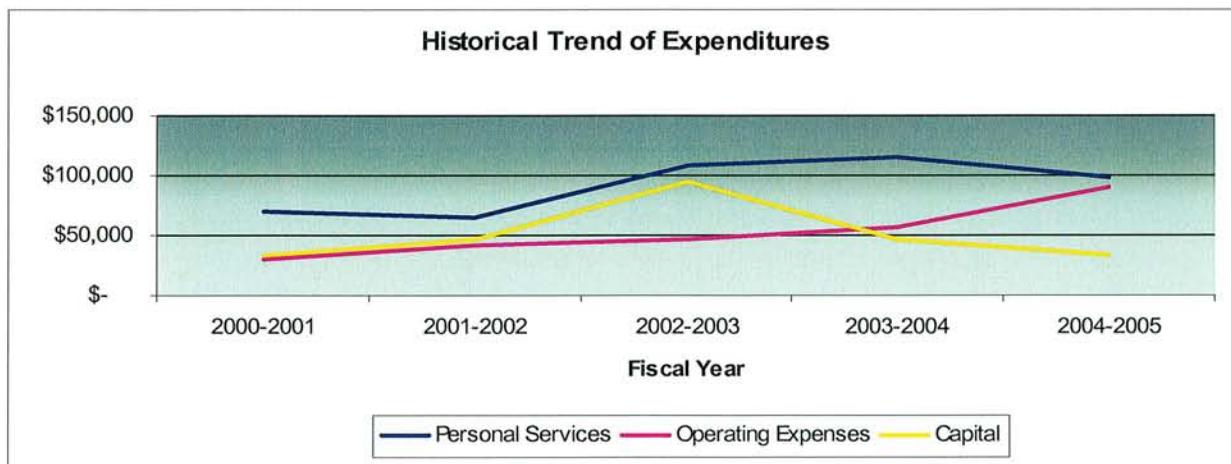
- Applying lessons learned from Hurricane Season 2004 to better prepare for 2005 and beyond.
- Continue to provide logistics and support to all emergency service providers.
- Expand the Emergency Operations Center to include additional bathrooms, sleeping and showering facilities.
- Install new weather monitoring equipment.



- Incorporate the new National Incident Management System (NIMS) into our existing comprehensive plans.
- Enhance the security features of the EOC.
- Continue to work closely with local, state and federal agencies to protect the lives and property of Hardee County citizens.
- Contribute to local media sources regarding public safety activities in Hardee County.
- Add additional shelter spaces as new facilities become available.



<b>Emergency Management</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 70,827	\$ 65,543	\$ 107,836	\$ 115,208	\$ 98,794
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 29,807	\$ 41,335	\$ 47,378	\$ 55,888	\$ 90,335
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 32,647	\$ 47,432	\$ 94,936	\$ 47,302	\$ 33,793
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 133,281</b>	<b>\$ 154,310</b>	<b>\$ 250,150</b>	<b>\$ 218,398</b>	<b>\$ 222,922</b>



## MINING

The Board of County Commissioners formed the Hardee County Mining Department in 1999 in an effort to promote coordination with other State and Federal agencies to assure timely and quality reclamation through the regulation of the phosphate mining industry.



The Mining Department was restructured in 2002 and the current staff consists of a Mining Coordinator, a Permitting Specialist and an Executive Assistant.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Mining department is to protect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Hardee County while safeguarding the quality of the land, water, air and help ensure long-term ecological, social and economic benefits.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

The Mining Department was forced to change focus on August 13, 2004. Hurricane damage assessment and repair became the priorities for the remainder of 2004 and until March of 2005.

Following this, the Mining Department

- Development of Regional Impact projects require intense field review during the application process. Mining Department staff attend a large percentage of these site meetings. Staff assists and observes water quality testing, wetland and floodplain boundary determinations, vegetation and wildlife surveys and more.
- The Department continued to research and investigate the developing technology of alternatives for mining and reclamation.
- The Mining Department participated in the Florida Institute of Phosphate Research meetings and mining conferences.
- Education and sharing of information and new ideas continued throughout the year at various Board of County Commission Planning Sessions and regular Board meetings.



*Dragline at Work*

### **2004/2005 Activities and Accomplishments**

- Pre-application process has begun for Mosaic's Fort Meade Mine Extension. Mosaic will be seeking a DRI for 12,000 acres located in northern Hardee County.

- Pre-application process has also begun for CF's South Pasture Extension. CF will be seeking a DRI for \$6,750.
- Mosaic seeking a DRI for approximately 21,000 acres, is continuing to obtain a permit for the Ona Mine.
- Van Fleet has also begun the pre-application process for the Airport DRI. They are seeking a DRI for approximately 22,400 acres.
- Completion of the Draft IMC Ona Mine Staff Report.
- Ensuring the timely reporting of the results of monitoring and mining by continuing to coordinate with regulatory agencies concerning monitoring results and inspection reports.
- Recommending revisions to existing mining plans as necessary to ensure the phosphate industry uses the "best management practices" and developing technology for the control of pollution and other adverse impacts of such activities through investigation of developing technology of alternatives for mining and reclamation compared to the existing practices.

In conclusion, the Mining Department met all of the goals and objectives established in which they had control over.



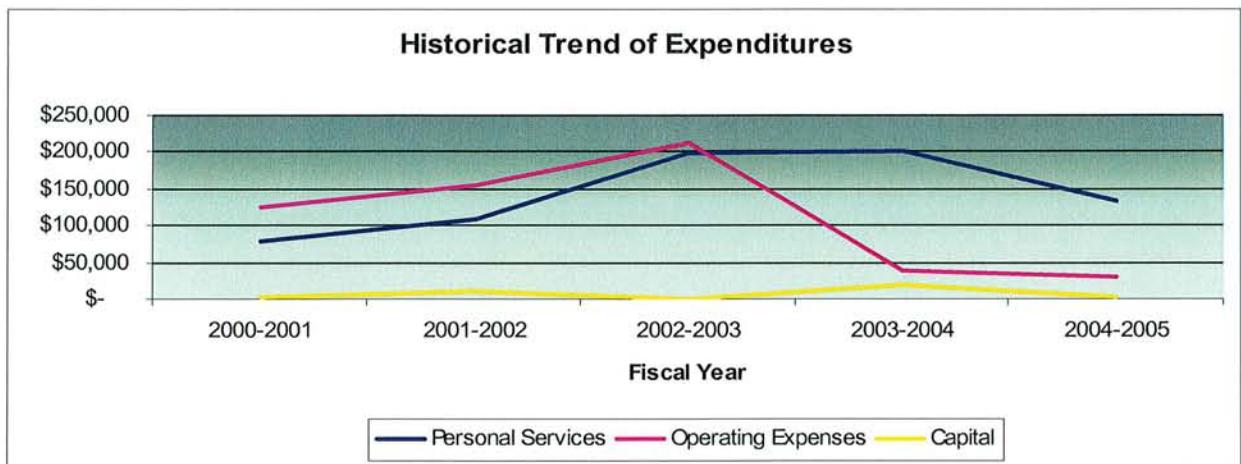
The Mining Department appreciates the Board of County Commissioners for their persistence and attention towards the adoption of Bill 18-E which increased the Mining Severance Tax from \$1.32 to \$1.62 per ton of phosphate rock severed from Hardee, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk and Hamilton counties.

### **Goals and Objectives for 2006**

The Mining Department continues to have the following goals:

- Monitoring the effects on the environment caused by mining by continuing to obtain water sampling certification.
- Ensuring that reclamation of the affected areas contributes to the development of economic diversity by mapping the status of reclamation for each mining company and coordination with the individual mining companies to ensure that the County has accurate and current Master Mining Plans.
- Ensure that it is in the public interest of the citizens of Hardee County to allow specific mining activity through Utilize 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. The Department will continue to assess whether the current Mining Ordinance, Land Development Regulations and Comprehensive Plan is being adhered to and assist in the adoption of a "New" Mining Ordinance.

<b>Mining</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 79,335	\$ 107,905	\$ 197,486	\$ 202,369	\$ 133,520
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 126,338	\$ 156,127	\$ 212,037	\$ 37,772	\$ 28,695
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 2,717	\$ 10,227	\$ -	\$ 19,843	\$ 2,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 208,390</b>	<b>\$ 274,259</b>	<b>\$ 409,523</b>	<b>\$ 259,984</b>	<b>\$ 164,435</b>



## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### 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.

### 2004-2005

#### Activities & Accomplishments

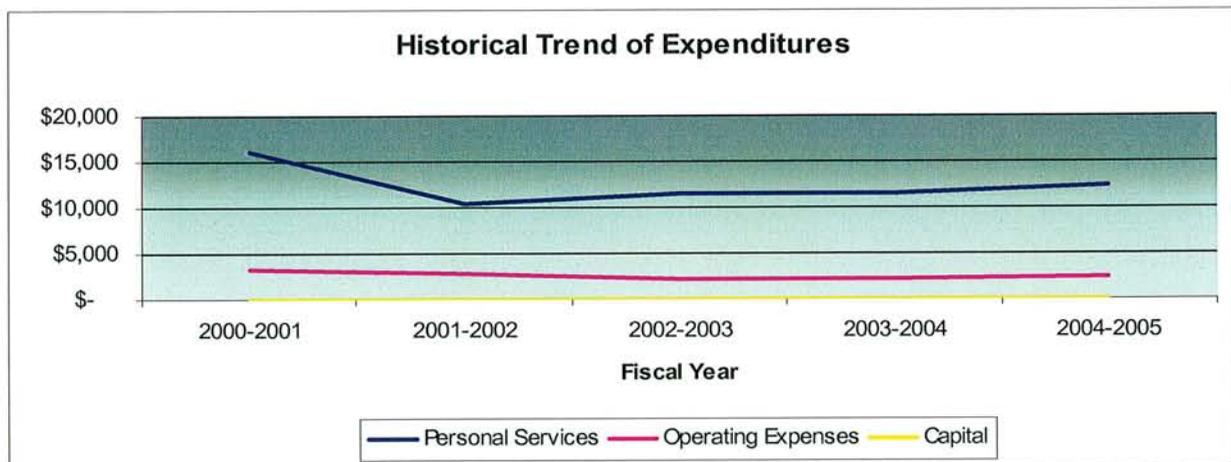
- Serviced 383 Veterans' and/or dependents.
- Prepared 1,845 documents pertaining to claims and/or supporting documents justifying claims.
- Phone calls in/out totaled 967.

- Attended four (4) meetings with Congressional Caseworkers at Bay Pines Veterans Medical Center.
- Attended County Veterans Service Officer Spring & Fall Training Conferences.
- Attended ten (10) American Legion Meetings.
- VA Expenditures to Hardee County \$2,253,585.00 for 2,165 Veterans and/or Veterans dependents.
- Total military Retirees & Gross Pay in Hardee County: \$1,712,770.00 for 118 Retired Military.

#### Goals & Objectives for 2006

The continuing goal of the Veterans Service office is to provide caring, knowledgeable, and professional service to the Veterans and residents of Hardee County.

Veterans Services					
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Personal Services \$	16,053	\$ 10,424	\$ 11,585	\$ 11,560	\$ 12,479
Operating Expenses \$	3,252	\$ 2,787	\$ 2,103	\$ 2,155	\$ 2,298
Capital \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>19,305</b>	<b>\$ 13,211</b>	<b>\$ 13,688</b>	<b>\$ 13,715</b>	<b>\$ 14,777</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 insure that useful knowledge generated by research units be interpreted for and delivered to the people of Hardee County. The primary extension programs are in agriculture, (beef cattle, dairy cattle, citrus, horticulture and vegetables), 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and energy information. This budget includes the agricultural 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.

### **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.

## **2003-2004**

### **Activities and Accomplishments**

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

- Issues Affecting Hardee Cattlemen in 2004
- Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show
- Goat Herd Health Management
- The Use of Sound traps in Mole Cricket Control
- Pasture Establishment and Renovation
- Artificial Insemination of Beef Cattle
- Reproductive Management School
- Beef Cattle Herd Health
- Winter Supplementation Program
- Herd Bull Selection
- Hay, Forage and Grazing Options
- Animal Welfare Concerns
- Forage Options for South Florida Ranchers
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention (weekly class)
- Financial Planning-Budget Box (monthly classes)
- Family and Consumer Sciences Council (monthly)
- Family Nutrition Program
- 4-H Leader Training (monthly)
- 4-H Youth County Council (monthly)
- 4-H Club Meetings (10 clubs meeting monthly)
- Annual 4-H Workshop and Demonstration Event
- 4-H Shooting Sports
- 4-H Sport Fishing 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
- Canker Awareness Program
- 24 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Weekly Classes at Hardee Jr. High School
- 24 monthly Nutrition Classes for elementary, junior high and high school aged youth, senior adults and teen parents
- Two budgeting and financial management classes for Habitat for Humanity clients
- Home and Community Education Council monthly meetings
- 4-H participation in Ag-Fest
- 4-H Club Meetings (9 clubs meeting monthly)
- Annual 4-H Workshop and Demonstration Event

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

- Dairy Cattle Heat Stress
- Dairy Reproductive Road Show
- Improved Milking Procedures

### **2004-2005**

#### **Activities and Accomplishments**

- Issues Affecting Hardee Cattlemen in 2005
- Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show
- Goat Herd Health Management
- Achieving Higher Pregnancy Rates through Bull Testing
- Pasture Establishment and Renovation Techniques
- Beef Cattle Herd Health
- Use of EPD's in Bull Selection
- Herd Bull Selection
- Tractor Safety School
- Animal Welfare Concerns
- Forage Options for South Florida Ranchers
- AgFest

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:

- Provided over 55 educational programs to an audience of over 1600 persons
- Phone calls in excess of 4200 requesting specific information.
- Walk-in clientele 900
- Publications distributed 3500
- On-site visits by agents and staff 500

The Extension office staff produces monthly and bi-monthly newsletters in the areas of Agriculture/Beef, Citrus and Family and Consumer Sciences with a monthly circulation of 1335, and a 4-H Newsletter produced on an as needed basis with a circulation of 232.

#### **Hurricane Recovery**

In spite of extremely adverse conditions, the Hardee County Extension Service continued to provide vital assistance to the citizens of Hardee County as follows:

- Provided 476 meals to recovery volunteers
- Assisted with small animal feed distribution
- Assisted with small and large animal housing and caretaking
- Distributed fencing materials to 85 Hardee County ranchers
- Distributed portable panels for temporary cow pen repair to 8 Hardee County ranchers
- Distributed food and supplies to 36 county residents as well as distribution centers throughout the county
- Assisted in acquisition of portable generators to local dairies
- Provided generators to animal rescue efforts
- Provided 1200 county residents with emergency management information regarding food preservation and mildew prevention
- 4-H youth volunteers assisted animal rescue workers with daily feeding and exercising duties
- Adult volunteers distributed over 1000 packets of information to school teachers and day care workers to assist them in helping children cope with storm related stress
- Assisted HCCA directors with Cattle-men's Arena reconstruction effort
- Provide nutrition education programs to individuals and families 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
- Develop a Hardee County 4-H Youth Advisory Committee for senior age membership
- Expand training and education for adult volunteers working directly with youth members in 4-H clubs
- Expand the variety and increase the number of resource materials available to the adult 4-H volunteers.
- County Extension Director will expand efforts in training 4-H youth in animal nutrition and feeding guidelines
- Implement phase 1 of background screening for adult 4-H volunteers as mandated by State 4-H Office

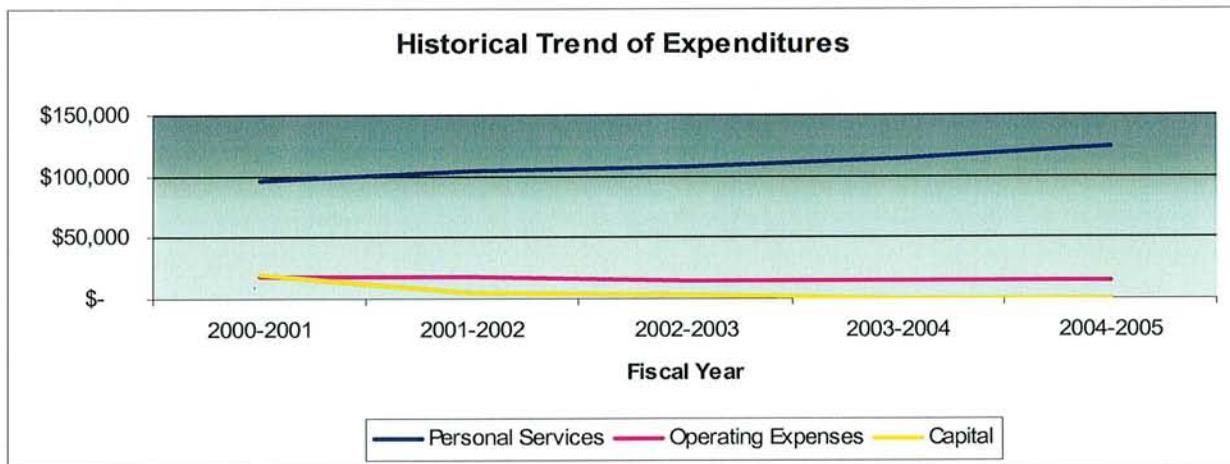
### **Goals and Objectives for 2006**

- Conduct Beef Cattle Management Shortcourse
- Conduct training sessions on Pasture Establishment/Renovation Techniques to Hardee County ranchers
- Provide advanced seminars/demonstrations at a Goat Production School
- Expand the Small Farms Program



**Extension Professionals unload supplies at Distribution Site**

<b>County Extension</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services \$</b>	96,751	\$ 104,042	\$ 108,012	\$ 113,990	\$ 123,527
<b>Operating Expenses \$</b>	17,352	\$ 18,141	\$ 14,289	\$ 14,011	\$ 14,161
<b>Capital \$</b>	18,878	\$ 4,579	\$ 2,513	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>132,981</b>	<b>\$ 126,762</b>	<b>\$ 124,814</b>	<b>\$ 128,001</b>	<b>\$ 137,688</b>



## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The Information Technology Services Department, created in 2001, includes Information Technology (IT) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The purpose of this Department is to implement, support and maintain the County's computer network and digital systems in an



effort to maintain standardization of systems, procedures, connections and security.

The ITS Department performs numerous digital mapping functions including maintaining various map layers, such as: county roads, land parcels, land use, Pioneer Park, mining, topography, aerial photography, commission districts, voting districts, enterprise zone, and many specialty map layers used for permitting, planning, grants, emergency response, and other purposes. Site data and evaluations for economic development projects are also provided by this Department.

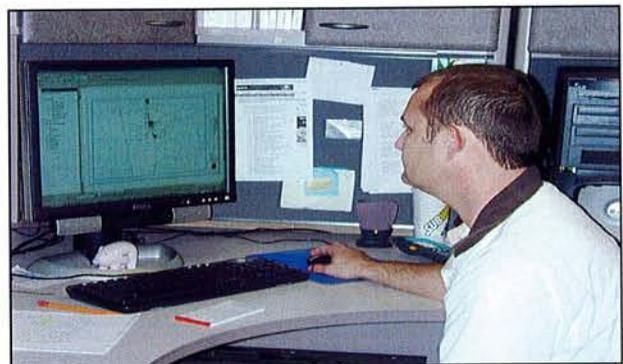
With the creation of the ITS Department, each department was integrated into a single contiguous computer network. Each department benefited from this consolidation through:

- Utilization of a high-speed internet connection;
- Establishment of a centralized email system;
- Implementation of a wireless LAN (network) connecting the computer networks of remote departments;
- Increase in security and email anti-virus and spam protection;
- Standardization of equipment; Reduced management and maintenance;
- Reduction of overall costs of providing technologies, as compared to services provided.

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

### **Mission Statement**

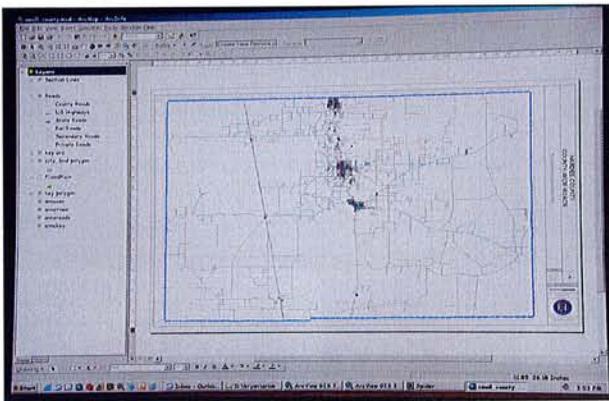
The mission of the ITS Department is to support, maintain, and enhance network infrastructure and information services to all county departments, and to provide security and security policies to protect the network and data. The Department also provides helpdesk support for a diverse range of problems and needs. Ex-



pert staff develops long-range plans for future growth and security of the County's technology needs. The ITS Department also provides geographic analysis support to all County departments.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

During 2003-04 we completed several major software upgrades as well as replacing 2 servers. The Parcel Mapping Service was also upgraded giving it more flexibility and usage. The servers were moved to a more secure location and luckily completed before the hurricane season arrived. The County negotiated a new T1 connecting contract with Quest Communications through Netwolves, saving the County roughly \$7,500 a year.



### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

2004-2005 was a very busy year for the Hardee County ITS department. In this fiscal year the department updated:

- road centerlines
- enterprise zones
- city and county boundaries
- zoning
- and developed other digital land resource information.

The ITS Department is now in the process of using Sokkia High-Precision GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment, to improve the accuracy of existing maps, and create new map data and digital management systems including drainage inventory (culverts, bridges, etc), fire hydrants, communications towers, landmarks, and other infrastructure.

The ITS Department has finally migrated all database services from Microsoft SQL server to MySQL Server, saving the County approximately \$11,000.00 in Licensing fees in upgrading the old Microsoft SQL server to the Newer Version and adding additional licensing for possible future expansion of services.

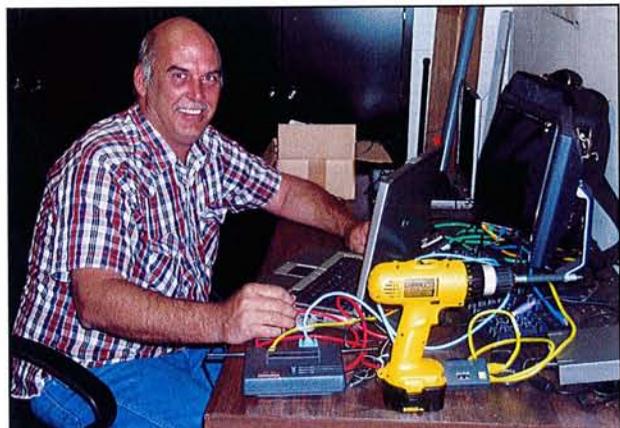
The ITS Department also created and released a County-wide Map Book Atlas for all County departments and is in the process of addressing the entire County for E-911 purposes.

ITS project support has been provided to Pioneer Park Days, Emergency Management, Economic Development, Engineering, and other County departments.

The ITS Department also contracted an outside vendor for spam/virus protection for the county email system, currently 92.5 % of all email is either spam or viruses.

### **Hurricane Recovery 2004**

After Hurricane Charley, the only communication to the outside world that the EOC had available was the email system, as all phone and satellite services were down or destroyed. Repairs are still in the process to the full network and putting in place necessary safeguards to ensure future communications in the event of another major disaster. The ITS De-



partment provided considerable support for damage assessment resulting from the disastrous 2004 hurricane season, such as providing extensive support for generator inventory during the disaster, and assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with many of the recovery projects located within the County. Department staff has completed training on FEMA HazusMH (Earthquake, Wind, and Flood) and is preparing to run hurricane models for estimating potential losses from hurricane and flood events.

Special recognition should go to:

- Perpetual Technologies for their loan of 6 laptops and several other pieces of equipment after hurricane Charley.
- The Hardee County School Board and Rocky Kitchens for their loan of 15 laptops after hurricane Frances.
- I-Net Consulting and Ari Weinstein for his help after hurricane Charlie.
- Break-Free Wireless for their help and support after hurricane Charlie in restoring communications to Public Works and Fire/Rescue.

### **Goals and Objectives**

In 2005-2006, the ITS department hopes to:

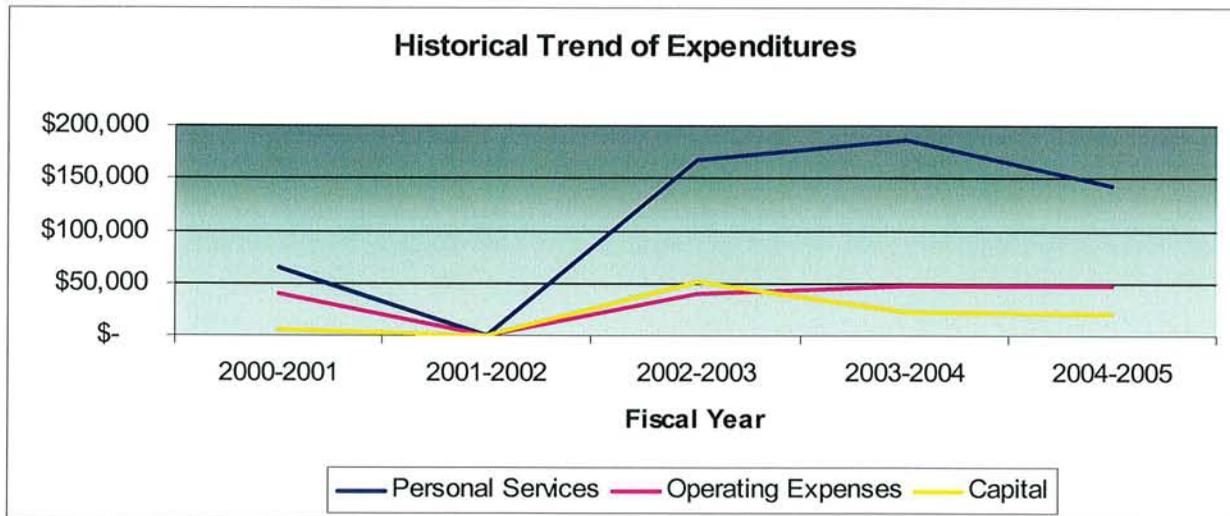
- Finalize addressing for the county
- Update the Land Resource Data System
- Develop and implement a hazard mitigation plan
- Develop flood and hurricane computer models for estimating potential losses from these disasters
- Connect Bowling Green and Zolfo Springs Fire/Rescue to the Wireless network and replace outdated servers and equipment

The following chart details the equipment that the ITS Department maintains.

	2003-2004	2004-2005
Email Addresses	69	71
Workstations	74	79
Laptops	16	27
Servers	10	11
Network Printers	15	20
Plotters	1	2
24 Port Switches	9	10
Cameras	10	10
Wireless Bridges	3	10
Wireless Access Points	5	5
Firewall Appliance	1	1

**Information &  
Technology Services**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 65,049	\$ -	\$ 167,437	\$ 187,295	\$ 142,965
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 39,947	\$ -	\$ 40,878	\$ 48,150	\$ 48,092
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 6,168	\$ -	\$ 52,231	\$ 23,460	\$ 20,455
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 111,164</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 260,546</b>	<b>\$ 258,905</b>	<b>\$ 211,512</b>



## **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

The Purchasing Department originally served only the Road & Bridge, Parks & Recreation, and Building & Grounds departments with three full-time employees. In the early 1980's Hardee County went to Centralized Purchasing, serving all departments under the Board of County Commissioners. Presently we serve approximately 33 departments. We currently have five full time employees: Purchasing Director, Buyer, Purchasing Specialist, Administrative Assistant and Stores Manager. This year our Purchasing Director retired, taking with her 27 years of Hardee County Purchasing experience. Our staff now boasts over thirty (30) years of purchasing experience with Hardee County.



### **Mission Statement**

Purchasing provides procurement services to Hardee County government agencies, securing goods and services that meet performance and delivery requirements at the most cost effective price, while adhering to appropriate laws, regulations and procedures.

### **2003-2004 Activities and Accomplishments**

In 2003-2004, the Purchasing Department received more than 3200 requisitions for goods and services, issued over 2500 purchase orders and processed more than 7000 invoices.

2004 was a very difficult and emotional time for Hardee County, as Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne ripped through our county. After being basically hurricane-free for more than forty years, our citizens and the employees of Hardee County were devastated by the mass destruction, especially from Hurricane Charley. Employees of the county were physically and emotionally drained, as they worked countless hours to recover and rebuild the county while also dealing with terrible destruction of their own homes and property.

Purchasing was faced with getting needed supplies as fast as we could, while keeping within FEMA guidelines to ensure that maximum reimbursement was received from the federal government. The most urgent need was to procure generators for critical facilities throughout the county. Generators were needed at the shelters for the many citizens that had to reside there for varying lengths of time. Generators were also provided for the hospital, emergency responders and many other government offices that were essential to the recovery process.



Recovering from hurricane damage was a learning experience for all Hardee Countians. Emotions may have periodically run high during this stressful time, but with cooperation and determination, the job got done.

### **2004-2005 Activities and Accomplishments**

In 2004-2005, the Purchasing Department received more than 3350 requisitions for goods and services, issued over 2600 purchase orders and processed more than 6500 invoices. We also were able to establish an on-line requisition system. This allows for more efficiency in ordering goods and services in a timely fashion. Ninety-five percent of the County's departments are now on line and using the system regularly.

A new computer was purchased along with software to upgrade our fuel distribution system. This computer is also used for the Purchasing Card program.



New vendors have been located to rent or lease generators to the county during emergency situations. This vendor list is constantly being updated to provide purchasing with the means to meet critical needs of our county.

### **Hurricane Recovery**

After the immediate danger of the hurricane had passed, Hardee County was faced with the difficult task of clean-up and recovery. Numerous County buildings were destroyed or severely damaged. The Nickerson-Ullrich Building at Pioneer Park was destroyed, plus the Animal Refuge and the park itself received major damage.

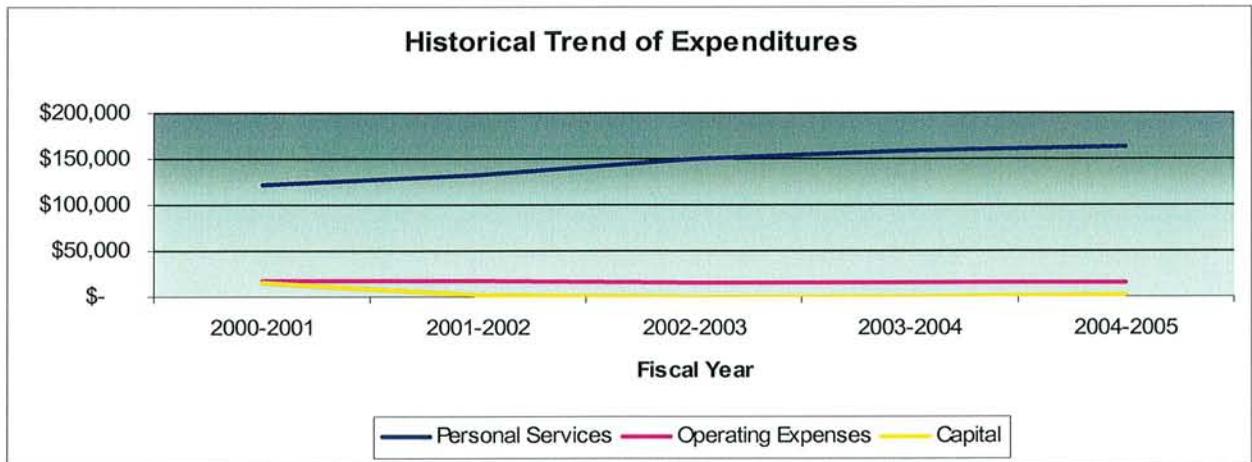
Purchasing was required to locate vendors, contractors and suppliers for county personnel to go about the awesome job of rebuilding a county. Even in an emergency such as this, Purchasing has a responsibility to the citizens of Hardee County to acquire needed supplies at a price which provides the best value for each dollar spent.

### **Goals and Objectives for 2006**

In 05/06 we plan to revise the County Uniform Policy and continue tweaking the on-line requisition system and fuel system to make them more user friendly.

Purchasing is a service department. It is our continuing goal to provide the most efficient response to the needs of our other departments. We will continue to attempt to procure goods and services as timely as possible while keeping our ultimate goal as providing the best value to Hardee County and its citizens.

<b>Purchasing</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b> \$	122,085	\$ 133,626	\$ 150,075	\$ 159,432	\$ 162,228
<b>Operating Expenses</b> \$	17,078	\$ 17,359	\$ 15,691	\$ 15,603	\$ 15,381
<b>Capital</b> \$	14,690	\$ 2,517	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,306
<b>TOTAL</b> \$	<b>153,853</b>	<b>\$ 153,502</b>	<b>\$ 165,766</b>	<b>\$ 175,035</b>	<b>\$ 178,915</b>



## **LIBRARY**

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



to Hardee County, including operating grants and equalization grants to supplement local funds, based on the level of effort expended by Hardee County.

### **Mission Statement**

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

## **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

Children's programming continued with weekly story hours for preschoolers, programs for home-school youngsters and



elementary school classes in the library. The summer Florida Library Youth Program was held by the library staff for 4 weeks with community members providing reading and library activities.

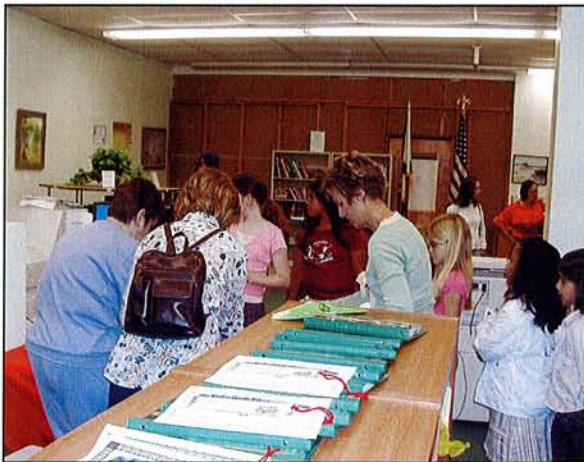
The State Library of Florida Born-to-Read Grant, designed for teaching the importance of reading to infants and young children, was offered again this year. Guest speakers were provided and programs offered to benefit and educate new parents about library resources and the advantages of reading to their children. With Pioneer Medical Center as the health partner, the program is providing health education to teen parenting classes at the high school.



The library continues to offer basic and advanced classes in the use of computers with a portable lab consisting of twelve laptop computers in the Meeting Room. The library automation system allows patrons access to the library from home to review their accounts, reserve and renew books.

## **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

Children's programming remains a priority of library staff. Weekly story hours are held for preschoolers. Home-school youngsters and elementary school classes frequently visit the library with library staff offering tours and special programs. The annual summer Florida Library Youth Program provides a unique approach to reading and library activities. The number of attendees for children's programs totaled 645 this year.



A grant from The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and The State Library of Florida enabled the library staff to present two six-week Prime Time Family Reading Time programs. The Hardee County Public Library is very proud to be a participant in this grant, as we have seen the impact this program has had on our community. Our first program consisted of only 5 families, garnered after the hurricane. Determined to make this program a success, in March of 2005 our second round of Prime Time saw the numbers increase to 30 families, 20 of which were Hispanic. These same families have become active users of library resources since Prime Time. Prime Time's concept

of encouraging parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics fostering high academic expectations and achievements for children in low-literacy, low-income families was well received by our participants. The discussion of humanities topics has been the key to the success of the program as each family has been able to relate their experiences with characters chosen in the curriculum. Community partnerships were established in keeping with the Prime Time concept of providing nutritional snacks and door prizes to the families at each session.

In collaboration with The Friends of the Library, library staff coordinated the monthly Artist/Author exhibit of drawings and writings by Kindergarten through grade five elementary students. Two receptions were held for parents and teachers honoring the chosen participants.

Our library staff partnered with The Friends of the Library in a fundraising project for the children's area of the library. Local artists donated hand-painted chairs to be awarded in a silent auction. As partners with the Hardee County Schools Battle of the Books, the chairs were on display at the Junior High Media Center in May and all summer in the library, thus creating an influx of patrons into the library environment.

Through the assistance of the Heartland Library Cooperative, the library continues to offer free weekly computer classes to the public utilizing twelve portable laptop computers.

The Cooperative web site ([www.myhlc.org](http://www.myhlc.org)) allows patrons access to the library from home to review their accounts, reserve and renew materials. A grant from the Bill Gates Foundation has provided additional Internet computers for public use.

### Year End Statistics

<u>Collection</u>	<u>Circulation</u>	<u>Patrons</u>	<u>Patron Visits</u>
48,789	67,023	11,846	54,067

The Public Access Management System (PAMS) now allows our local patrons to access the library Internet computers with their library cards. Non-resident patrons may purchase a Guest Card to access the Internet. The PAMS system allows patrons the opportunity to download audio books to their home computers and media players.

### Hurricane Recovery



Library staff aided County hurricane efforts by assisting in Emergency Management, Purchasing, Building & Zoning and the County Manager's Office. Due to severe damage to the complex, the library was closed for a short duration. Access to the library was restricted to the rear of the complex for several months. Patrons depended upon the library for access to information for housing, financial assistance and medical information. Library materials were important to patrons with limited resources and provided welcome comfort and entertainment due to the lack of electrical power.

Despite the loss of one-third of the floor space in the library due to the storm, shelving and furniture have been rearranged to accommodate patrons and to provide consistent library service and programming until the library is restored.

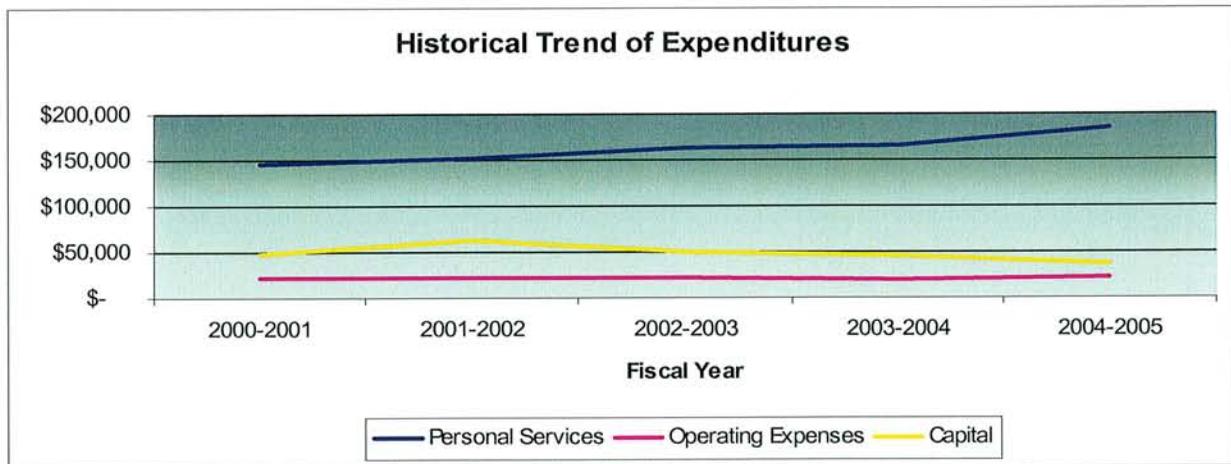
### Goals and Objectives for 2006

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

Plans are underway to expand the library into the existing hallway to bring the square footage close to State Library expectations. A capital improvement project by county staff will enlarge the children's area, provide more work space for patrons, create a quiet reading room, relocate the internet computers to a more conducive area for concentration and enable patrons to enter the library with a separate entrance in the complex.

**Library**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b> \$	145,685	\$ 153,074	\$ 162,075	\$ 165,455	\$ 185,600
<b>Operating Expenses</b> \$	22,418	\$ 22,267	\$ 20,771	\$ 19,405	\$ 22,669
<b>Capital</b> \$	48,115	\$ 63,645	\$ 50,556	\$ 45,251	\$ 36,768
<b>TOTAL</b> \$	<b>216,218</b>	<b>\$ 238,986</b>	<b>\$ 233,402</b>	<b>\$ 230,111</b>	<b>\$ 245,037</b>



## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Hardee County Animal Services was formed in 1995 by the Hardee County Board of Commissioners to provide the unincorporated area of Hardee County with this specific service.

This service includes the humane capture, impoundment and if necessary the euthanasia of stray or unwanted domestic dogs and cats. Animal Services also enforces all state and local laws and policies as pertaining to Florida State Statutes and Hardee County Ordinances.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of this department is to educate the public on their responsibilities as pet owners and to promote adoptions, rabies vaccinations, and having animals spayed or neutered to prevent the number of unwanted animals that come into the shelter.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

Animal Services answered 1,412 complaints resulting in the impoundments of 1,610 animals, of which 902 were dogs, 671 were cats and 37 were chickens. There were a total of 114 adoptions. There were 1,282 animals euthanized, 76 animals redeemed to their owners and 76 animals died in the kennel or escaped.

The total amount of revenue generated from this department was \$8,914.67. This included \$4,605.00 in adoption fees, \$1,625.00 in kennel fees, \$136.00 in donations and \$1,548.67 in reimbursements for supplies used by the City of Wauchula.

### **Hurricane Recovery**

Hurricane Charley was an eye-opening experience for Hardee County Animal

Services. Animal Services was unaware of the time, staff, space, supplies, and such that would be needed during an event such as a hurricane. On August 13, 2004 Animal Services was preparing to shelter animals for the hurricane and sheltering animals from the public at the kennels up until 2:00 P.M. Hardee County Animal Services, along with the City of Wauchula Animal Control, began patrolling the County looking for stray and injured animals on August 14, 2004. There were a total of 125 dogs impounded as a result of the patrols. Due to limited kennel space the animals were taken to Hardee County Cattleman's Arena where temporary kennels were set up and veterinarians were on hand. Bulletins were posted letting the community know where to look for their missing animals. Animals that were not claimed were fostered or sent out of County to be adopted. The county animal shelter received several tons of donated dog food, cat food, and horse/cattle feed to care for the community's animals until the feed stores were re-opened. An out of state mobile veterinarian organization named Code 3 volunteered their time at no charge to help the community with our injured animals. There were numerous surrounding counties that sent their animal control officers to come and assist us in any way needed. They patrolled the County to make sure the residents had food and water for their animals.

### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

Animal Services has achieved many accomplishments this past year. The department agreed to participate in a rescue program known as Canine Castaways. This organization will take most of the small, unwanted animals that are unadoptable and foster them. The Herald Advocate has offered a promotional "Pet of the Week" ad in their paper at no cost

to the Animal Service Department. Also the department participates in a web-based operation called "Pet Finders" where pictures of animals are advertised on the Internet in an effort to find adopters. We have also had several residents that are not able to keep animals for health reasons or etc., pay the adoption fees for animals, then let us keep them to find them homes.

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

A working relationship has been strengthened with the Sheriff's Department in order to improve procedures and techniques used in the investigations of criminal offenders involving domestic dogs and cats.

Animal Services answered 1,341 complaints and impounded 1,490 domestic dogs and cats. There were a total of 105 adoptions and 1,251 animals euthanasia.

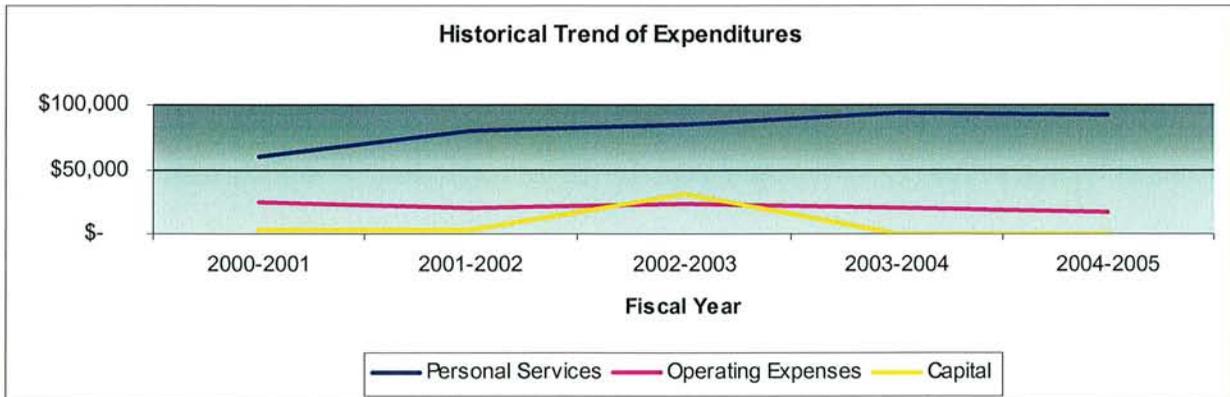
Animals Services redeemed 81 animals back to their owners and had 59 animals that died in the kennels or escaped.

The total amount of revenue generated from Animals Services was \$8,013.70. Revenue includes \$4,120.00 in adoption fees, \$289.50 in donations, \$2,335.00 in boarding and impoundments fees and \$1,269.20 in reimbursements from the City of Wauchula and the Town of Zolfo Springs.

### Goals and Objectives

Animal Services primary goals and objectives include continuing to educate the public on the local and state laws governing animal ownership, such as the importance of animal identification. Animal Services is currently promoting available animal adoptions through local newspaper advertisements and through Internet programs and will continue to expand our adoption resources through technology. Animal Services is looking into programs that would aid in suiting adopters with compatible animals for increased adoptions.

<b>Animal Services</b>					
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 60,642	\$ 80,282	\$ 84,543	\$ 93,730	\$ 91,617
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 23,929	\$ 20,334	\$ 23,036	\$ 20,395	\$ 17,297
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 2,497	\$ 3,410	\$ 30,770	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 87,068</b>	<b>\$ 104,026</b>	<b>\$ 138,349</b>	<b>\$ 114,125</b>	<b>\$ 108,914</b>



## ENHANCED 9-1-1

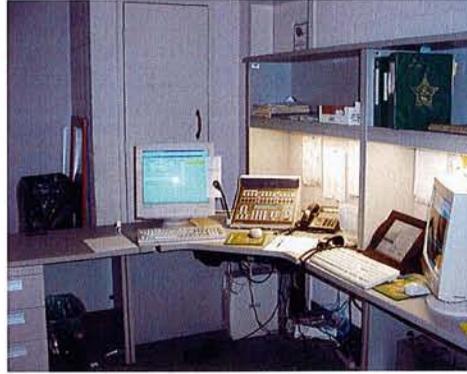
The Enhanced 9-1-1 department maintains the addressing database for Hardee County. The county is the addressing authority for all addresses within Hardee County and its municipalities. Hardee County is an enhanced 9-1-1 phase II system consisting of one Public Safety answering Point (PSAP). The primary PSAP is located at the Hardee County Sheriff's Office in Wauchula and direct dispatches for the sheriff's Office plus four (4) additional safety agencies. The system includes central office identification and called party hold. Dedicated transfer lines interconnect the answering center with two safety agencies. Overflow 9-1-1 calls are handled by DeSoto County Dispatch Center.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Enhanced 9-1-1 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.

## Goals & Objectives for 2006

- Adding a secondary call-taking center located at City of Wauchula Police Department. This system is designed to assure continuous 9-1-1 services in the future, meeting the goals set by

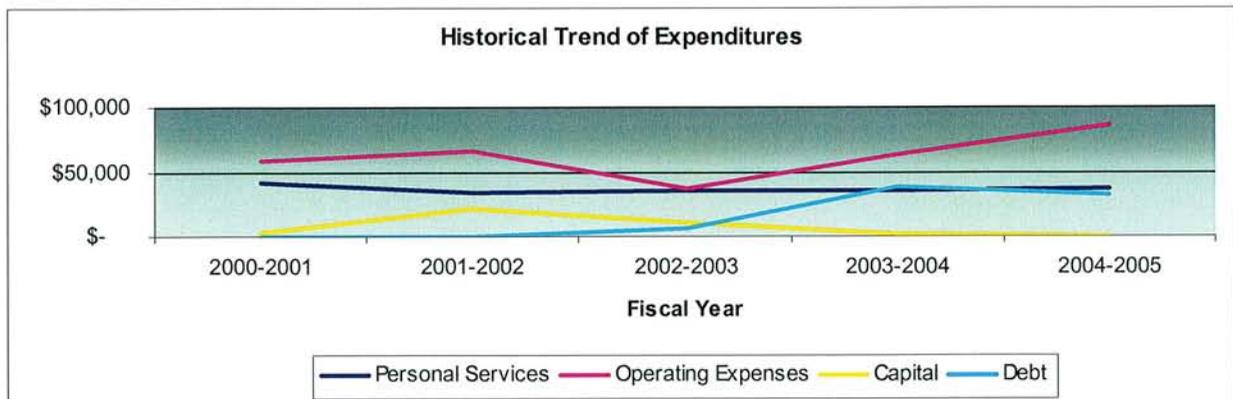


the State of Florida's 9-1-1 Plan on E 9 1 1 backup requirements in the event of failure of

a Primary PSAP.

- To improve the Enhanced 9-1-1 system and service, specifically the call-taking center located at Hardee County Sheriff's Office, with improvements such as PCC Phase II mandates for capturing wireless 9-1-1 calls and integrated mapping of call locations as specified in the State 9-1-1 Plan.

Enhanced 911	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Personal Services \$	41,777	\$ 33,174	\$ 34,753	\$ 34,684	\$ 37,439
Operating Expenses \$	59,123	\$ 66,148	\$ 37,689	\$ 63,821	\$ 85,968
Capital \$	3,325	\$ 21,644	\$ 11,017	\$ 1,356	\$ -
Debt \$	-	\$ -	\$ 5,918	\$ 38,070	\$ 32,259
<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>104,225</b>	<b>\$ 120,966</b>	<b>\$ 89,377</b>	<b>\$ 137,931</b>	<b>\$ 155,666</b>



## ROAD AND BRIDGE



The Road and Bridge Department is the largest department within the County, responsible for the construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges in our county system. Within the county, there are 310.03 miles of paved roads and 201.58 miles of unpaved roads, as well as 70 bridges. The department handles and issues permits for telephone, culverts, 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, and provide a safe system to develop and provide high levels of service by planning, scheduling, and controlling work.

### 2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments

- Completed the paving of Crewsville Road (\$641,167.74)
- Phase I of Murphy Road was completed (\$282,581.23)
- Construction of Sauls Road was started (\$36,594.45)
- Site preparation for Hardee County Commerce Park
- Completed Steve Roberts Special bridges and approaches

(\$1,148,775.06)

- Site preparation for Hardee Lakes Park was completed
- Coordinated exhibitors, booths, and layout of Pioneer Park Days
- Weekly bulk waste pickup
- Supervised weekly trash pickup by community service workers
- Completed paving of Torrey Road (\$69,860.20)
- Issued 55 utility permits and 75 culverts permits

In 2003-2004 fiscal year, the following road right of way was acquired:

- Sasser Road  
.29 acres +/-
- Torrey Road  
.50 acres +/-
- Murphy Road  
.336 acres +/-

Road Closure:

- Portion of Desoto St. & Alleyways in the Town of Fort Green

SCRAP- Murphy Road

Negotiated a Temporary Construction Agreement to allow for clearing of brush and trees along right of way line and replacement of 1,584' +/- of barbed wire fence.

Ralph Durrance Road

Negotiated a Right of Way Easement between IMC Phosphate Company and Peace River Electric Cooperative, for the relocation of a utility pole, in order to shift the road in the area of the curve in an effort to improve drainage.

Reviewed numerous site development plans as requested by the Building and Zoning Department.

## **Hurricane Recovery**

The Road and Bridge office personnel, along with the help of the DCI Work Squad provided sand bags to the public prior to the hurricanes until weather conditions made it no longer safe to do so. Following the hurricanes, all personnel reported immediately to work to assess damage and begin clearing roadways in addition to manning the fuel pumps that were only working manually due to lack of electricity. The Road and Bridge Department worked 12 to 13 hour days and provided two men to man the office throughout the night to receive shipments of equipment and fuel generators, which the Road and Bridge Department placed throughout the County at the request of Emergency Management. Crews made temporary emergency repairs to the Road and Bridge system.

The office also served as a supply and donations disbursement center for County employees and their families in need following the disasters. A list of needs of the employees was coordinated through this office and supplies were given out to them. We also provided personnel to assist in the distribution of emergency supplies to the public.

Work was coordinated with other agencies involved in restoration. This Department organized the work for replacing an estimated 300 road signs and restoration of traffic signalization throughout the County. Office personnel worked with FEMA Representatives and Consultants in the completion of Damage Assessment.

## **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

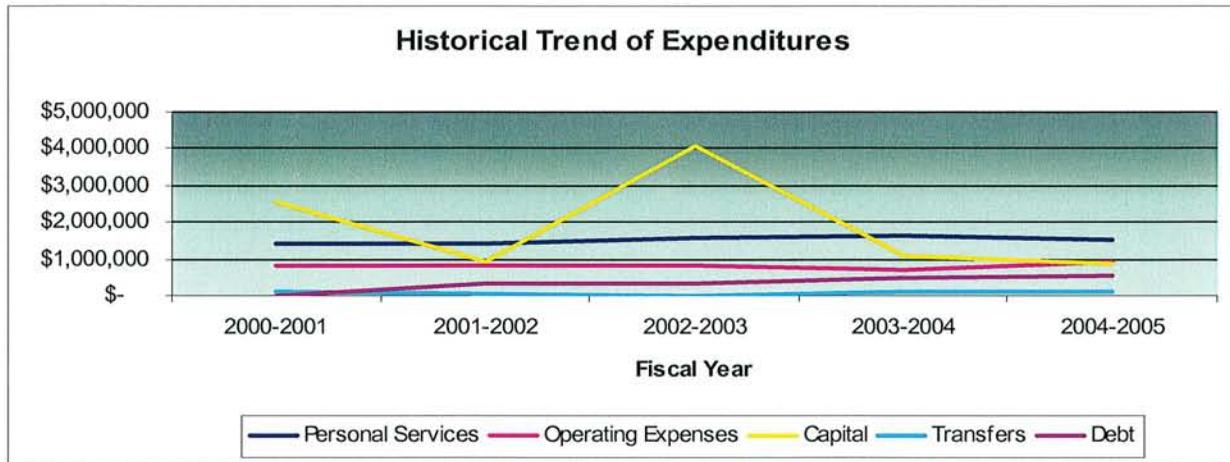
In 2004-2005 fiscal year, the following was accomplished.

- Phase II of Murphy Road is 80% completed. (\$699,617.61)
- The paving of Dallas McClellan Road is completed pending corrective action.
- The rewrite of the project worksheets for June Storm and Hurricane Charley is completed.
- We issued 26 utility permits and 103 culvert permits.
- Our total bulk waste tonnage for the year was 504 tons.
- Reviewed numerous site development plans and zoning requests.
- Road Closure: Bowen Road in its entirety and a portion of Tuskegee St.
- Channel Cleaning and Restoration (Watershed Program). (\$78,755.97)
- Completed emergency repairs from hurricanes.
- Finished construction on Sauls Road. (\$27,604.67)

## **Goals and Objectives**

- Completion of Murphy Road improvements.
- Widening and resurfacing of: Sweetwater Road (SCRAP), Dansby Road (SCRAP), Florida Ave. (SCOP), Streets of Riverview, .5 miles of Bostick Road, and replacing wooden bridges #064001 & # 064017 with concrete bridges on Ten Mile Grade.
- New Construction: Moffit Road between Dallas McClellan Road to the west end of Sasser Road Approx. ½ mile.
- Repairing storm damaged roads.

<b>Road and Bridge</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 1,389,720	\$ 1,389,547	\$ 1,578,046	\$ 1,618,538	\$ 1,535,262
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 804,156	\$ 791,341	\$ 811,743	\$ 714,378	\$ 924,976
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 2,568,880	\$ 919,202	\$ 4,072,683	\$ 1,074,422	\$ 872,321
<b>Transfers</b>	\$ 101,168	\$ 45,000	\$ 3,377	\$ 97,268	\$ 135,575
<b>Debt</b>	\$ -	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 545,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,863,924</b>	<b>\$ 3,470,090</b>	<b>\$ 6,790,849</b>	<b>\$ 4,004,606</b>	<b>\$ 4,013,134</b>



**EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE**

The Equipment Maintenance Department's main purpose is to provide safe, dependable equipment to the operations departments. This equipment is to be maintained at the lowest possible maintenance cost and with the least interference to the operations departments. To date we have 325 units, of which 79 are emergency vehicles.

**Mission Statement**

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



**2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

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



work on vehicles entering or exiting the shop. It also updates scheduled and episodic maintenance computer records.



**2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

Total Repair Orders Performed:

	<u>03/04</u>	<u>04/05</u>
Ambulance Dept	63	70
Bldgs & Grounds	247	272
Fire Dept.	139	188
Landfill	192	195
Law Enforcement	336	412
Road & Bridge	1,129	1,212
Worker's Comp Claims		3



**Hurricane Recovery**

Our main focus in hurricane season is to keep

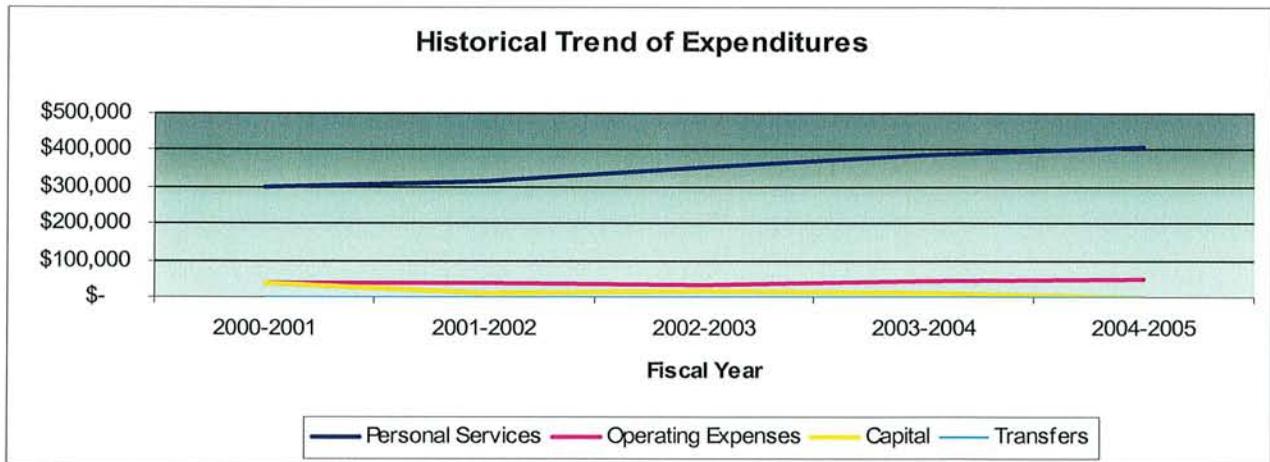
priority equipment up and running. Generators for power, emergency vehicles for Fire & Rescue, Sheriff's vehicle to keep law and order, and heavy equipment for road clearing.

**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 commitment to manage the maintenance facility is by predetermined actions rather than unplanned reactions.

Staff training this year will be Multiplexed Electrical Systems, Hydraulic Troubleshooting and Allison Transmissions and Apparatus Design.

<b>Equipment Maintenance</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 299,413	\$ 314,698	\$ 355,291	\$ 387,315	\$ 409,408
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 40,083	\$ 38,651	\$ 30,851	\$ 43,247	\$ 48,825
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 38,641	\$ 13,357	\$ 15,014	\$ 11,780	\$ -
<b>Transfers</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,296	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 378,137</b>	<b>\$ 366,706</b>	<b>\$ 402,452</b>	<b>\$ 442,342</b>	<b>\$ 458,233</b>



## **PROBATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**



The County Probation and 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. The Probation Department is in the Division of Community Development and General Services under Director Janet Gilliard.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Probation 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 enabling them to stay in society and contribute, without putting extra burdens on the jail and welfare system.

## **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

During the 03/04 fiscal year the Probation Office monitored probationers to ensure compliance with court ordered conditions of probation. As part of the supervision, the staff performed background investigations along with a complete criminal history check on each probationer. Also obtained in each file are reports on probationer's offenses from local law enforcement agencies, and complete detailed records are kept on any contact with or pertaining to the probationer.

The probation staff is also responsible for ensuring that probationers attend any mandatory treatment and counseling services. The Probation Department also 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 attended all court sessions relating to the office, and kept a liaison with the jail personnel and law enforcement officers. This office also provided the court interpreter services for the county during this period.

For the 03/04 fiscal year this office received 306 new probation cases. Out of those cases, 147 warrants were issued for non-compliers and there were 93 cases revoked and given different sentences. The Probation Department is responsible for collecting probation fees from probationers, and this department received \$45,136.00 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 03/04 there were 2,272 hours completed at the Hardee County Road Department, and Hardee Pioneer Park. These hours calculated at minimum wage would have cost the county, \$11,700.80 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, \$56,836.85 was generated for the county.

#### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

For the FY 04/05 this office received 288 new probation cases. Out of those cases, 156 warrants were issued for non-compliers and there were 100 cases revoked and given different sentences. The Probation Department is responsible for collecting probation fees from probationers, and this department received \$55,708.28 for cost of supervision from the probationers.

During 04/05, the probation office assisted in collecting a total of approximately \$53,389.92 for the clerk's office in fines, public defender fees, and investigative costs.

The payment of these amounts is part of each clients probation order. The Probation Office ensures that amounts are paid and takes appropriate action when they are not.

The Probation Department is responsible for ensuring that probationers/community service workers complete

court ordered hours. For FY 04/05 there were 2,481 hours completed at the Hardee County Road Department. These hours calculated at minimum wage would have cost the county, \$13,788.15 to secure. There were additional community service hours provided to the community at various non-profit organizations throughout the county.

As previously noted, the probation office provides benefits to the county in many ways. These benefits were realized in the approximate amount of \$122,886.35 in dollars and services provided for the county.

#### **Hurricane Recovery**

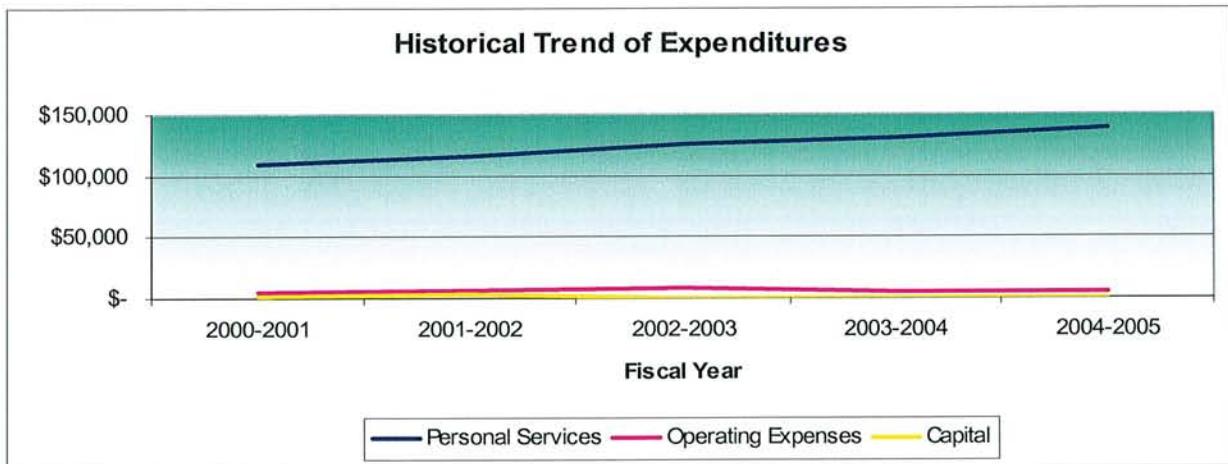
During the hurricane season, the Probation Assistant worked in the Emergency Operation Center, when needed, as Assistant Public Information Officer. She also assisted wherever she could and provided additional services to the citizens of the county. We are thankful for her efforts in helping with these emergency situations.

#### **Goals and Objectives**

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

**County Probation**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b> \$	108,786 \$	115,233 \$	124,833 \$	130,955 \$	138,173
<b>Operating Expenses</b> \$	4,668 \$	5,749 \$	7,438 \$	5,358 \$	5,080
<b>Capital</b> \$	1,504 \$	2,577 \$	- \$	- \$	-
<b>TOTAL</b> \$	<b>114,958 \$</b>	<b>123,559 \$</b>	<b>132,271 \$</b>	<b>136,313 \$</b>	<b>143,253</b>



## **SOLID WASTE/LANDFILL**

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

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

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

### **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 sanctity of the counties' environment and that are consistent with the goal and objectives of the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

The Solid Waste Department processed 23,652.92 tons of waste segregating waste into the following categories:

(Note: Due to three hurricanes we had to open a temporary site for construction and demolition)

Class I Waste	21,071.00
Wood and Yard Waste	1,462.43
Waste Tires	128.51
Hazardous Waste	4.81

The Landfill continued contracts with Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Notification Verification Program, which assists county businesses by educating them on the proper management procedures for hazardous materials. Further, the Landfill continued their contract with Short Environmental Laboratory for the sampling and testing of leachate and groundwater and the City of Wauchula for the proper treatment and disposal of leachate. The Landfill also re-bid the Household Hazardous Waste contract with a new company, EQ of Florida. The last 5 years we have been contracted with Clean Harbors for the transportation and proper disposal of hazardous waste.

The Solid Waste Department utilized engineering services from SCS Engineers for Debris Management (due to hurricanes). SCS was issued a work order for the preparation of Landfill improvement's required by the Department of Environmental Protections for a 10-acre expansion of the Class I Landfill. The improvements consisted of a gas trench, storm water controls, survey markers, monitoring well 10, and certification.

### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

The Solid Waste Department processed 26,741.52 tons of waste. The waste was segregated into the following categories:

	Total Tons
Class I	22,081
Wood and Yard Waste	3,304
Waste Tires	183
Hazardous Waste	13

In July 2005 construction and demolition debris was segregated when possible then put in roll-off containers provided by Hardee Disposal service and hauled to Waste Corporation in Ft. Meade for disposal. We have continued this to save air space in the Class I Landfill.

The Landfill renewed the contract with Central Florida Regional Planning Council in the amount of \$12,075.00 for the Notification Verification, which assists county businesses by educating them on the proper management procedures for hazardous materials. We will be re-bidding the contract for sampling and testing of leachate and groundwater monitoring. The City of Wauchula takes all the leachate generated in the landfill for proper disposal and treatment. We hauled a total of 4,595,200 gallons. The landfill also manages specialty programs such as our Household Hazardous Waste Collections. The contract is with EQ of Florida for the collection, transportation and proper disposal of hazardous waste generated by households in Hardee County. The landfill also provides Hardee County residents with a safe way to dispose of their sharps (needles, blades, sharp objects) by providing containers that can be picked up and brought back to the Hardee County Landfill for disposal.

The Solid Waste department utilizes SCS engineers for work orders for Landfill improvements required by the Department of Environmental Protections. The improvements consist of a gas trench, storm water controls and survey markers.

The Solid Waste Department is responsible for accounting practices used for the collection of the tipping fees and for application and management of various state grants. This past fiscal year, we collected and managed \$1,419,662 in tipping fees, \$173,673 in grants reimbursements, and \$54,286.85 in miscellaneous revenues.

### **Hurricane Recovery**

Hardee County has a contract with Crowder Gulf for hurricane debris removal and SCS Engineers for debris management. Due to three hurricanes, Hardee County was responsible for cleaning up municipalities and unincorporated Hardee County.

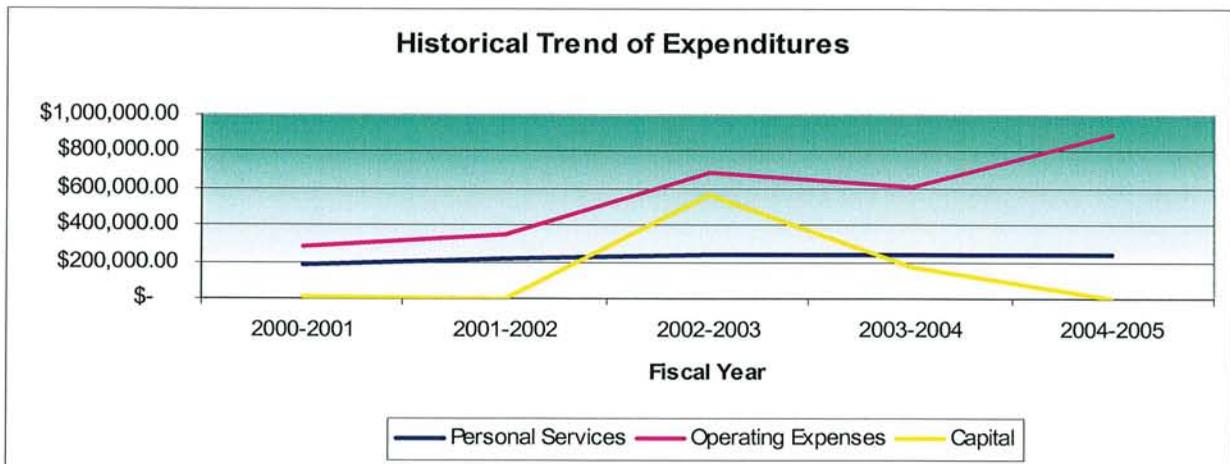
The Landfill Department was responsible for setting up two temporary sites for disposal of hurricane debris. The first site was located off Gebhart Road. This site only processed vegetative debris. The debris was burned and the ash was disposed of at Seaboard Industries. The second site was located adjacent to the landfill on a 10-acre site that was made available by Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC. This site was available to take residential wood, yard trash, and construction and demolition debris. The wood and yard debris was chipped at a flat fee of \$54,000.00. The construction and demolition debris was hauled to Cedar Trails landfill in Bartow for \$30.00 a ton. Hardee County Solid Waste Department collected a total of 4,081.45 tons of construction demolition.

Damages to the landfill included several downed trees, damage to the fence at the Hazardous Waste building, destruction of a shed, metal lost from the east side of a maintenance building, and minor damages to the scale-house and scales.

**Goals and Objectives for 2006**

Future goals for the Solid Waste/Landfill include projected impact of commercial growth for Hardee County, a 10- acre expansion in our Class I Landfill and closure of the old cell. We will continue to implement waste reduction.

Landfill	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$184,808.00	\$216,889.00	\$ 240,062.00	\$ 241,808.00	\$ 242,121.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$277,952.00	\$344,350.00	\$ 681,818.00	\$ 604,840.00	\$ 887,048.00
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 8,363.00	\$ 2,060.00	\$ 565,812.00	\$ 170,012.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$471,123.00</b>	<b>\$563,299.00</b>	<b>\$1,487,692.00</b>	<b>\$1,016,660.00</b>	<b>\$1,129,169.00</b>



## **RECYCLING**

The Recycling portion of the Solid Waste Department is responsible for recycling and waste volume reduction activities. Recycling is achieved by evaluation of the economics of a particular material and by evaluating the level of difficulty to generate and manage that particular material. This department also seeks to provide recycling alternatives to prohibited and 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.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

The Recycling Department continued contracts with 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 \$50,126.00. We are currently rebidding our waste tire contract.

We are currently seeking new markets and allowing local vendors to bid on specific products for reuse.

### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

The Recycling Department continued contracts with Consolidated Resource Recovery for processing wood and yard trash at a cost of \$9.21 per ton. We chipped a total of 3,228.65 tons of wood and yard trash. The recycling department also has a contract with Hardee Correctional Institute for supplying a six-man inmate labor squad and one correction officer at a cost of \$48,070.00. The squad is responsible for general clean up in the recycling building and for pulling out recyclables that Hardee County may recycle. The recycling department is now required by the Department of Environmental Protections to pull all electronics from the waste stream and dispose of them with an electronic recycler. The recycling department uses American Environmental Recyclers to recycle the electronics. The cost for recycling is a \$700.00 flat fee for a roll-off box that they provide. The recycling department recycled the following items in 2004-2005:

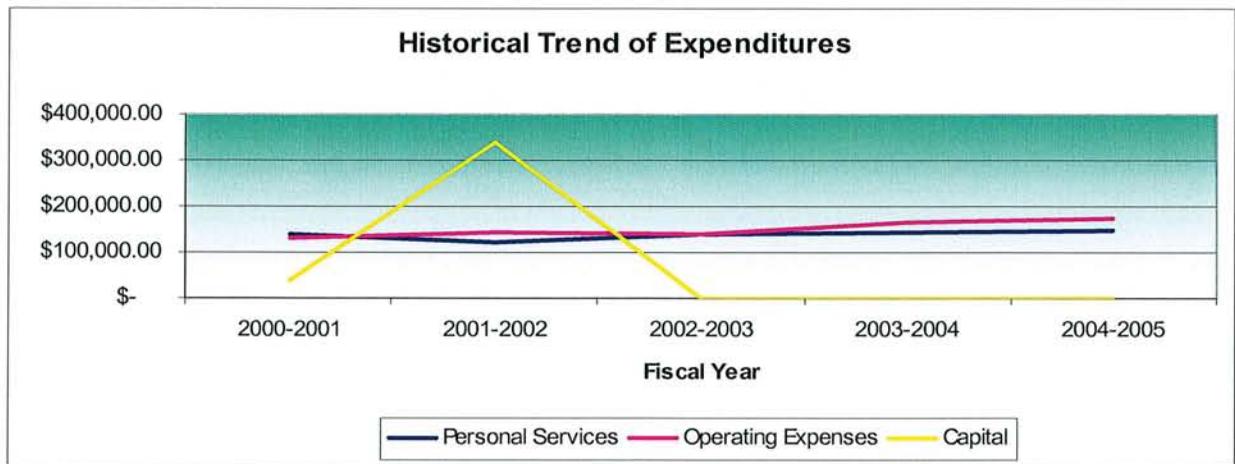
Aluminum-	2.68 tons
Batteries-	14.09 tons
Cardboard-	68.27 tons
Glass-	18.36 tons
Electronics-	21.04 tons
Pallets-	15.56 tons
Tires-	292.74 tons
Metal-	1,531.72 tons

The total revenue received was \$54,182.85.

### **Goal and Objectives for 2006**

Goals include securing innovative and new or better markets for recyclables.

<b>Recycling</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 139,501.00	\$ 123,715.00	\$ 138,829.00	\$ 141,522.00	\$ 149,068.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 129,312.00	\$ 142,044.00	\$ 137,500.00	\$ 164,650.00	\$ 174,786.00
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 41,004.00	\$ 337,942.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 309,817.00</b>	<b>\$ 603,701.00</b>	<b>\$ 276,329.00</b>	<b>\$ 306,172.00</b>	<b>\$ 323,854.00</b>



## **HARDEE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE**

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 experienced 95% 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.

The Fire Rescue Department is made up of the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer, Executive Assistant, Billing Clerk and 30 Fire-fighter/EMT's and Paramedics, each of whom must routinely train, plan and be prepared for all emergencies that should arise.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of this department is prevention of the loss of lives and property due to fire, life-threatening emergencies and disasters, provision of fire prevention and safety education to our schools and citizens, and mitigation of all emergencies using the most efficient and effective means available.

### **2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments**

The Department is required by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) to conduct one live fire exercise per year. This year a considerable amount of time has been spent training on Hazardous Materials. The department averages eighty to ninety man-hours of training each week.

A total of 3,620 emergency calls were run in 2003-04. Beginning in 2003-04, all hospital-to-hospital transfers

(interfacility) were no longer run by Hardee County Fire Rescue in an effort to keep the firefighters free to maintain fire rescue and emergency coverage for the county and its residents. Although initially this was a loss of 700 calls a year, there has been a 58 % increase in call volumes.

The fire protection this department provides for Hardee County is comparable to any of the larger municipalities, and



medical care is of the highest caliber and continues to grow and develop as medicine changes. The main focus of this department is customer service. The Special Operations Team has gone through Confined Space training, which certifies the team to perform rescues below grade and in very tight, confined spaces. The team also participated in Swift Water Rescue training, utilized several times this past year. This training ensures a



safer working environment for our fire-fighters and a safer rescue for the victims.

The Fire Rescue Department is very proud to have been included each month in the nationally published magazine called "1st Responder". We submit stories with pictures of our scenes which are posted periodically and can be viewed on the web at [www.1stresponder.com](http://www.1stresponder.com).

Station 3 in Bowling Green was opened in 2004. This has dramatically reduced the response times for residents in and around Bowling Green but also in the entire north end of our county.

#### **2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments**

A total of 3,435 emergency calls were run in 2004-05. In this year, 18 Fire Rescue employees participated in a total of 160 hours each of Urban Search and Rescue Training. This highly technical rescue procedure is used, for example, after hurricane or tornadic activity to comb through the rubble left from demolished buildings. The training can be utilized during any high-angle, trench or collapse rescues. The recipients of this training can also provide mutual aid to other counties when the need arises.

#### **Hurricane Recovery**

Although there were only 400 documented calls that were directly related to the hurricanes, emergency calls were run for almost a week before the tracking system was restored. It is estimated that there were approximately 500 calls for the first week and a half following Hurricane Charley.



*Volunteers after Hurricane Charley*

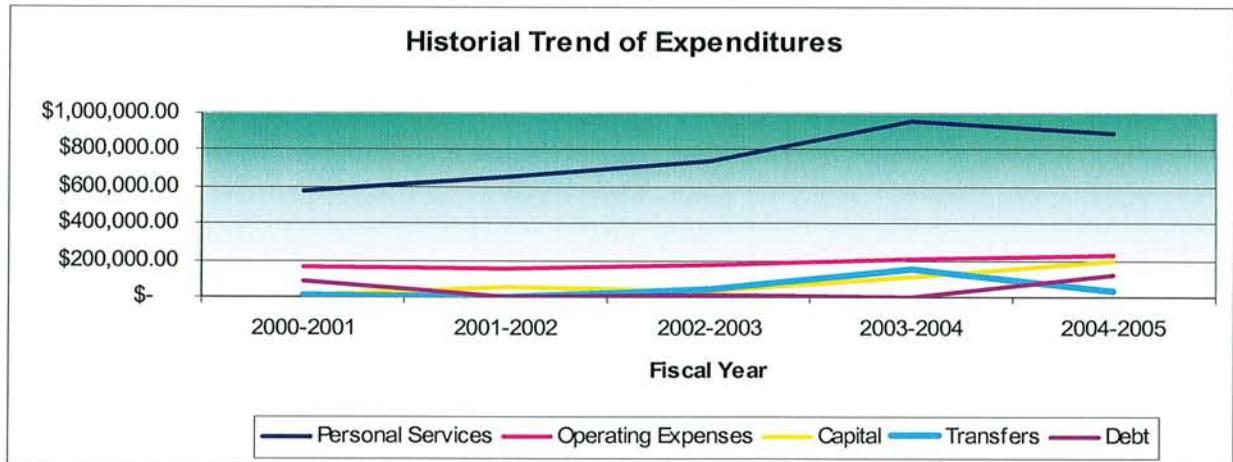
#### **Goals for 2006**

The primary goal of Fire Rescue is to rebuild the two fire stations that were destroyed by Charley, purchase equipment to meet the needs of the county's citizens, and attain sufficient staffing to continue providing Hardee County residents with quality Fire Rescue services. Currently, there are temporary fire stations in Zolfo Springs at the original site, and in Bowling Green at Pyatt Park.

Hardee County Fire Rescue will continue to mitigate, rescue, extinguish, prevent and educate at increasing levels. While striving to attain these goals, we will continue to deliver our services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.



<b>Fire Control</b>					
	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>Personal Services</b>	\$ 573,064.00	\$ 652,754.00	\$ 740,944.00	\$ 953,167.00	\$ 889,042.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 158,895.00	\$ 153,665.00	\$ 170,460.00	\$ 206,617.00	\$ 226,316.00
<b>Capital</b>	\$ 7,162.00	\$ 49,549.00	\$ 36,331.00	\$ 105,449.00	\$ 194,870.00
<b>Transfers</b>	\$ 16,098.00	\$ -	\$ 46,783.00	\$ 156,564.00	\$ 34,467.00
<b>Debt</b>	\$ 84,783.00	\$ -	\$ 16,098.00	\$ -	\$ 119,896.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 840,002.00</b>	<b>\$ 855,968.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,616.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,421,797.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,464,591.00</b>



## PIONEER PARK DAYS

Pioneer Park Days is coordinated each year by the Human Resource Department and staffed by employees from various County Departments in addition to volunteers. It continues to be one of the largest exhibits in the South-eastern United States with ex-



hibitors and vendors attending from all areas of the United States and Canada. The 2005 year marked the 37<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of Pioneer Park Days.

### Mission Statement

The mission of Pioneer Park Days is to provide 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.

### 2003-04 Activities and Accomplishments

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual show was successful once again, providing profit for future improvements to county-owned parks. With the devastation and damage our parks received from this past hurricane season, funds from the show will enhance restoration and improvements.



Pioneer Park currently has 491 vendor spaces in the flea market area which are

sold out a year in advance. Antique engines and tractors were filled to capacity. We continue to show an increase of ex-



hibitors in the antique car section. With the addition of the craft demonstration in the museum area, it enhances the attendance of visitors in the Museum. Attendees enjoyed visiting the Museum and chatting with the staff, which were dressed in pioneer attire for the festivities. Even the animals in the animal refuge



enjoyed putting on a show for the visitors who choose to take a walk on the boardwalk.

### 2004-05 Activities and Accomplishments

There was a drop in attendance at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual show and our staff is researching ideas for improvements that could increase attendance.

Unfortunately, the Animal Refuge remained closed during the show as a result of hurricane damage, but was reopened in the fall of 2005.

Pioneer Park Days consist of detailed planning, purchasing and communicating with all the participants and the public to ensure an enjoyable visit by all.

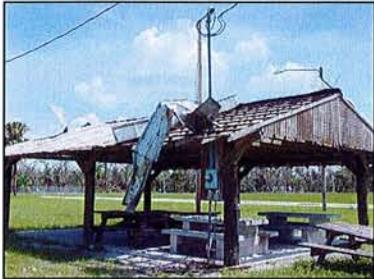
With the continuation of a pioneer theme, for Pioneer Park Days ensures that old and young alike can



visit and take away a little history. As in the past, Pioneer Park staff has maintained a high standard of quality to continue the tradition year after year.



### Hurricane Recovery



Pioneer Park suffered much destruction resulting from Hurricane Charley. With the loss of the entertainment building, picnic shelters, and

fences, along with the removal of destroyed pine trees and branches, the clean up of the park was a major job.

After many months, and much hard work by county employees and volunteers, repairs were completed and Pioneer Park was restored. Af-



ter the 2006 show trees and foliage will be planted to enhance the beauty of our beloved park.



### Goals and Objectives

The main goal and objective of Pioneer Park Days is to make each year bigger and better than the previous year. One of the capital improvements scheduled for 2006 is the purchase of a sound system and lighting for the entertainment building. It is our objective to make Hardee County's Pioneer Park Days an event that everyone looks forward to the first full weekend in March.



**Pioneer Park Days**

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>Personal Services</b> \$	25,026.00	\$ 26,863.00	\$ 31,193.00	\$ 33,604.00	\$ 34,867.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b> \$	171,366.00	\$ 216,404.00	\$ 57,624.00	\$ 167,650.00	\$ 99,792.00
<b>Capital</b> \$	4,996.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,870.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b> \$	<b>201,388.00</b>	<b>\$ 243,267.00</b>	<b>\$ 88,817.00</b>	<b>\$ 203,124.00</b>	<b>\$ 134,659.00</b>

