



# Hardee County 2005-2006

# Annual Report



# Board of County Commissioners



Minor Bryant  
District 1

Hardee County is a wonderful place to live and we are growing and becoming stronger each year. I am so proud to be a part of this community and to serve the citizens of Hardee County. Please take a moment to review our 05/06 Annual Report. It proves how much we have accomplished!

I am so proud to be a part of Hardee County! We are strong and have conquered so much. Please take a moment to reflect back on the accomplishments we have made by reviewing our 2005/2006 Annual Report. Our Staff has worked diligently to get us back on track and focused. I am so honored to serve the citizens of Hardee County and look forward to another prosperous year!



Nick Timmerman  
District 2



Gordon Norris  
District 3

Fellow Citizen's:

We are committed to moving Hardee County forward. We strive to meet the need of our citizens who call Hardee County home and strive to protect our way of life. Planning for the future is a balancing act all of our county personnel strive to accomplish. We continue to focus on economic development and creation of new jobs with attention to planned growth. The New Year will be challenging, but I look forward to making Hardee County all it can be.

Hardee County stands poised for a productive future in both commercial and residential development. Economic development, recreation, transportation and environmental issues are all of vital importance.

We must provide service, infrastructure and the leadership necessary to maintain the health, wealth and safety of our community.



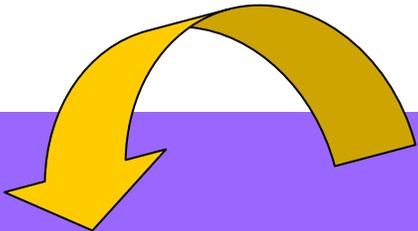
Bobby Ray Smith  
District 4



Dale Johnson  
District 5

2006 has really been a year of challenges and 2007 looks like it will be even more so. We as a county really need to have HWY 17 completely four-laned. Florida Department of Transportation has said according to Florida Transportation magazine that every \$1.00 spent in roadwork comes back to the County in economic growth as \$5.60. It is important to push for the completion of Hwy 17 Project becoming four-laned.

We need to have a visioning process to see exactly where Hardee County will be in the future. Smart growth is important in 2007. We planned to have a visioning session soon. I hope you will participate in our meetings. Hardee County is now a great place to live, but we can do better.



# County Manager

Dear Citizens:

I am pleased to present the 2006 Hardee County Manager's Annual Report. This document is intended to inform Hardee County citizens about the accomplishments of County Government over the past year. In these pages, you can see what your government is doing to enhance your quality of life.

Even though it has been over two years since our community was devastated by three major hurricanes, the recovery process has continued throughout this year and will also continue through the end of FY 07. This process of dealing with FEMA, Project Worksheets, and the management of recovery related contracts has been a long and arduous one and has consumed an inordinate amount of staff time. As County Manager I applaud the efforts of staff that have had to deal with this task in addition to the routine day to day operations of the county.

As we continue to serve the needs of the community we are also continuing to provide the infrastructure to encourage economic development. Even though there has been much talk concerning growth and specific land use changes in both the areas of industry and residential development, it has not, at this point made much headway, primarily due to the lack of water and wastewater capacity. But with implementation of additional water and wastewater in the next year we will have provided the needed capacity to support the planned growth. To finance these services the county was successful this year in obtaining from the State of Florida additional appropriations of \$1.95 million for wastewater and \$480 thousand for regional planning of our wastewater systems and developing a wastewater re-use master plan.

The staff of Hardee County promises to continue to strive to increase our efficiency in the delivery of County services to both our individual and business citizens. I would like to extend my thanks, to all the staff that have worked so faithfully for Hardee County. I also would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners for the tough decisions they have had to make to move our County forward and to better position us for future growth.

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The County Manager is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners. Lex Albritton serves as the chief executive officer of the County, and it is his responsibility to implement all decisions, policies, programs, and motions approved by the Board. This execution is done through the department directors and administrative personnel, who report directly to the County Manager.

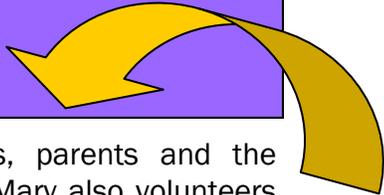
In addition, the County Manager's office recommends an annual County operating and capital improvement budget to the Board and coordinates the Board's meeting agendas and workshops.

Lex Albritton has served the citizens of Hardee County for 5 years.



Lex Albritton, Jr.

# Employee of the Year



Mary Mitchell has served as a 21-year county employee and is Hardee County's 2006 Employee of the year.

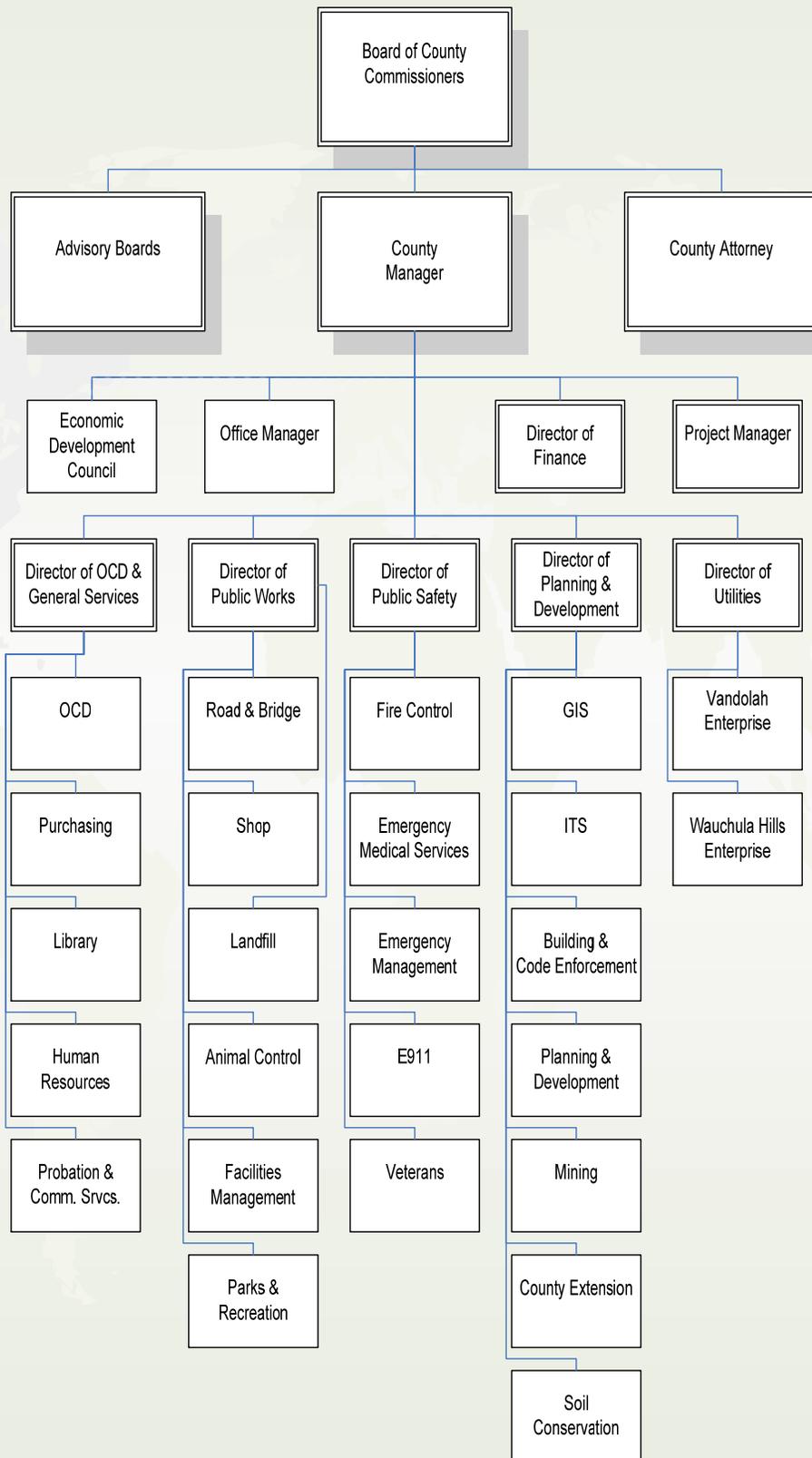


Mary is the extension program assistant and was nominated by her fellow co-workers. She has consistently helped organize and maintain the county 4-H program assisting volunteers,

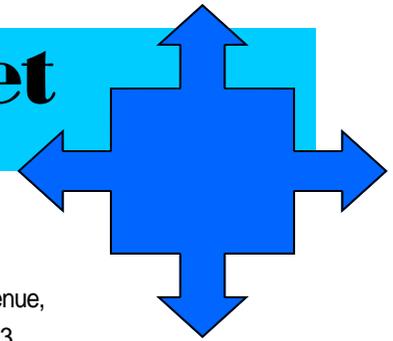
members, parents and the public. Mary also volunteers outside the office for the 4-H program.

She views situations without bias, showing impartiality when dealing with the public and consistently contributes more than is expected and comes to work each day with a good attitude.

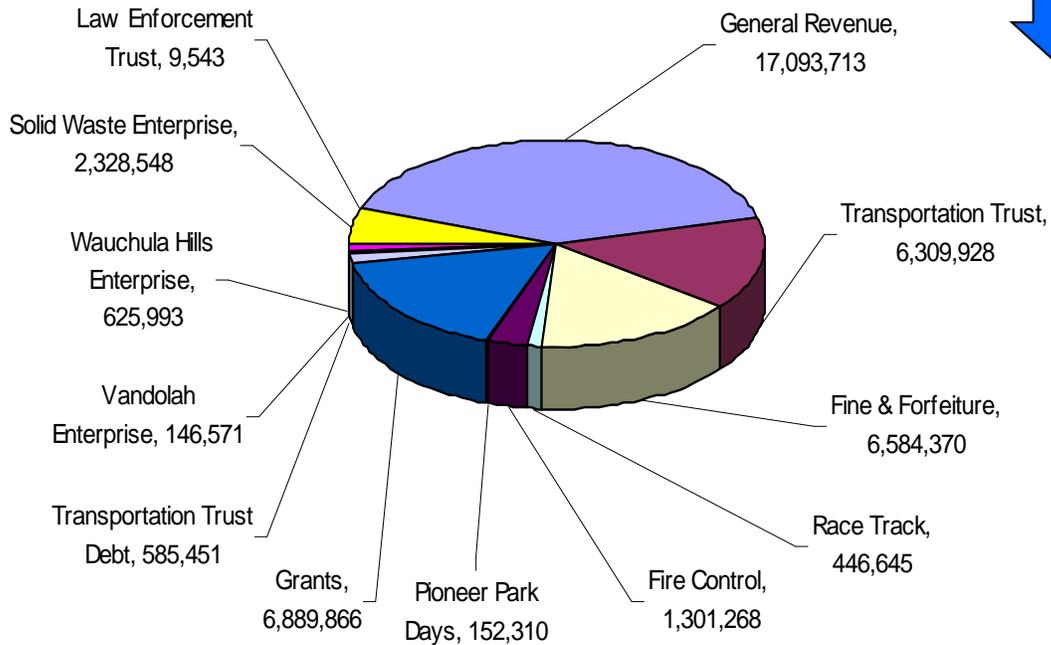
# Hardee County Organizational Chart



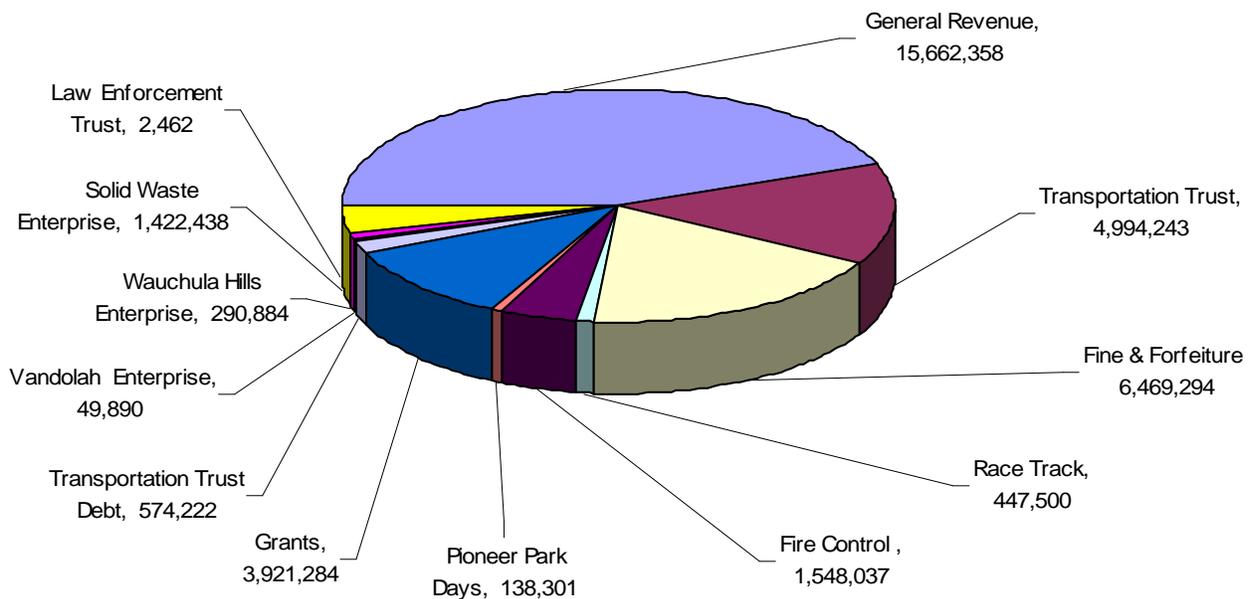
# Fiscal Year 05-06 Budget



## Actual Revenues—\$42,474,206



## Actual Expenditures—\$35,520,913



# Administration

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Department ensures that employment practices and benefits of Hardee County's employees are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board. They provide support and guidance to all County Departments to ensure the employees of the County are treated with fairness and have safe working environments. HR consists of three full time positions that spend countless hours ensuring payroll is completed bi-weekly, labor issues are addressed and properly handled, as well as all types of insurance claims.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Successfully completed contract negotiations for Road & Bridge and Fire Fighter unions.
- ⇒ Completed a salary study which resulted in more competitive wages for several county positions.
- ⇒ Conducted 136 interviews which resulted in 58 new employees hired.
- ⇒ Coordinated and held the 5th Annual Health and Benefits Fair for county employees.
- ⇒ Various safety trainings were provided to Road & Bridge and Solid Waste employees including fork-

lift operations, flagging and workers comp.

## Purchasing

The Purchasing Department provides procurement services to the entire county, securing goods and services that meet the performance and delivery requirements at the most cost effective price, while adhering to appropriate laws, regulations, and procedures.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Processed 3,650 requisitions resulting in 3,600 purchase orders, which reflects an increase of approximately 45% over the previous year.
- ⇒ Processed 7,750 invoices and 3,925 credit card purchases.

## Office of Management & Budget

The OMB is staffed by the OMB Director and three Specialists responsible for Budget, Fixed Assets, and Special Assessments. This department is the County's point of contact for all budget



**Human Resources,  
Purchasing,  
Office of Management & Budget,**

# Administration

issues, including preparation of the County budget, revenues and expenditure forecasting, monitoring the Board's debt schedule, monitoring funds and estimating cash balances. In addition, this department has managed and monitored the FEMA reimbursement from the 2004 Hurricanes, managed and recorded Fixed Assets to comply with GASB requirements and collected interim revenues and improved the tax roll for Special Assessments.

and maintained a balanced budget.  
 ⇒ Processed 89 requests for hardship exemptions, 122 certificates of corrections and 369 pre-determinations for Special Assessments. Collected \$20,966.05 in interim billings for Special Assessments  
 ⇒ Inventoried over \$45 million in County's existing Fixed Assets, recorded over \$6 million in newly acquired assets and updated the annual depreciation schedule.



ing in a County savings of \$11,000 in licensing fees and allowing for future expansions of the service.  
 ⇒ Replaced approximately 12 computer systems.  
 ⇒ Installed a High Speed Access point in the Board Chambers for use during Commission meetings.

## Information Technology

The IT Department supports, maintains and enhances the County's network infrastructure and information services and provides related support to all County departments including security to protect the network and data. They further provide geographic analysis support to all agencies and continuously update the County's website.

⇒ Coordinated with Human Resources to develop an ID data base for all County employees.  
 ⇒ Coordinated with Purchasing and Bank of America to improve the Purchasing Card program by transitioning to a client/server based application to increase the accuracy and improve the availability of County purchases.  
 ⇒ Developed a web based Helpdesk for County departments to utilize.



Accomplishments include:

⇒ Improved budget presentation and developed document for linking restricted revenues to expenses.  
 ⇒ Processed 343 transfers and 132 budget amendments to meet each department's funding need

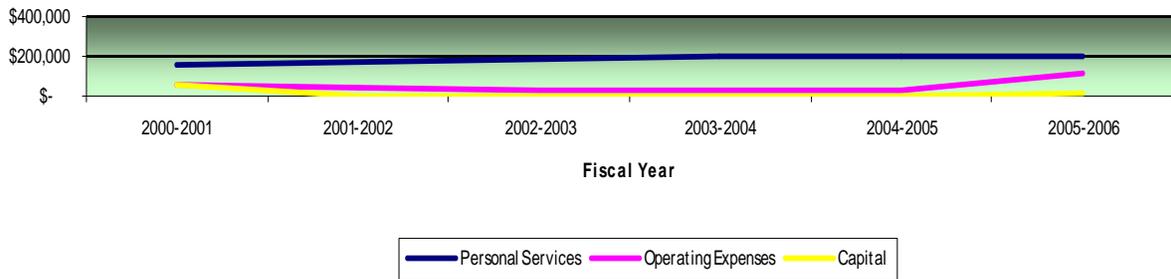
Accomplishments include:

⇒ Upgrades all database services to MySQL, result-

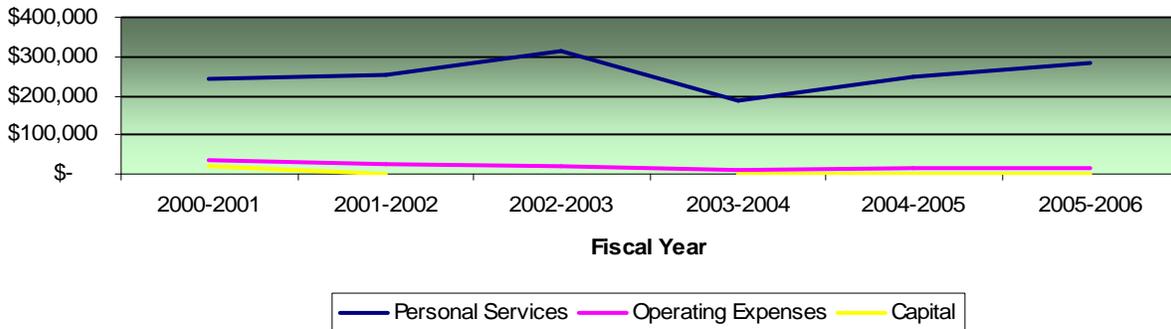
**Human Resources, Purchasing, Office of Management & Budget, and Information Technology**

**Did you know...**  
 92.5% of all email received is SPAM or viruses that are blocked through an outside vendor established through the IT Department?

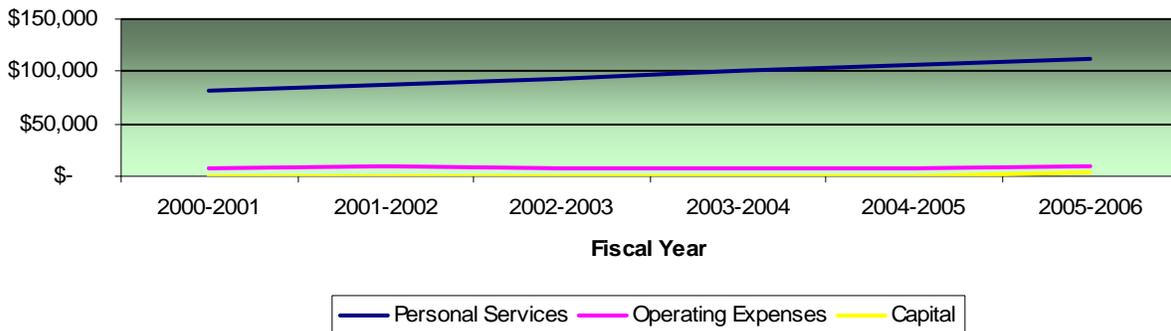
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Board of County Commissioners



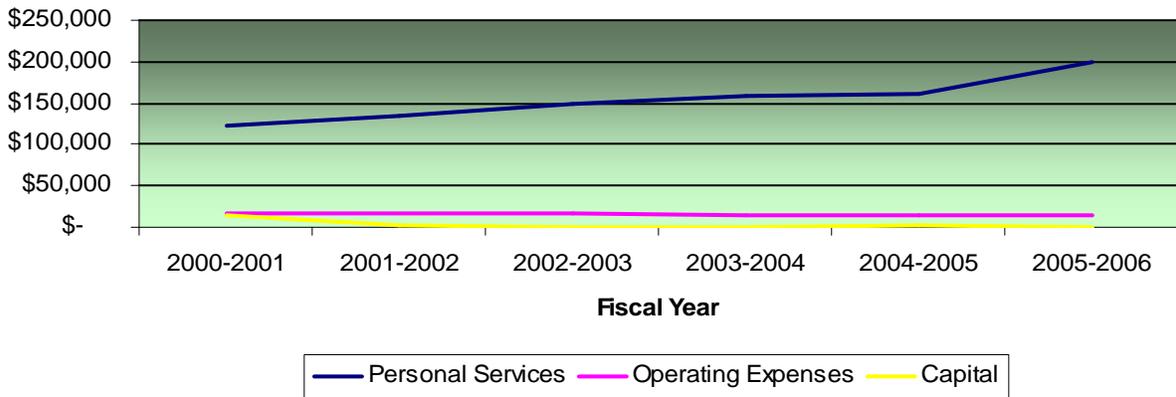
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-County Manager



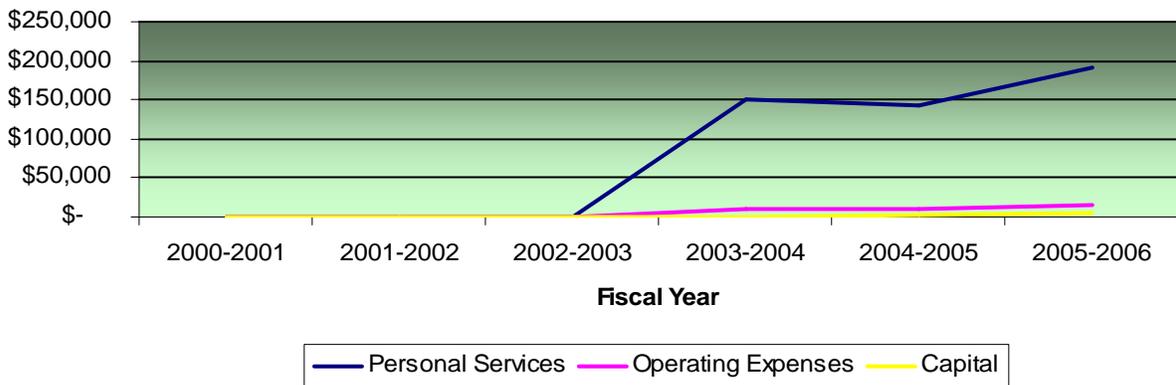
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Human Resources



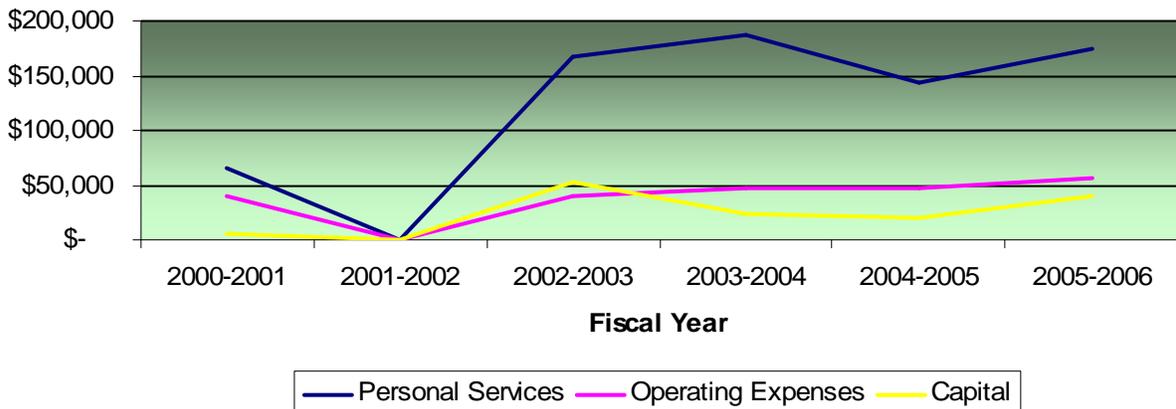
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Purchasing



### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Office of Management & Budget



### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Information Technology



# Public Safety

## Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Department safeguards and protects the lives and property of Hardee County citizens by reducing vulnerability from disasters both natural and manmade. This department is responsible for the planning, mitigation, response, and recovery of all hazards. This department and the Emergency Operations Center has been praised as a model agency by the State Department of Emergency Management.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Emergency Management utilized over \$85,000 in Federal and State funded grant awards for equipment, training and education, and a shelter retrofit.
- ⇒ They provided training for County and municipal employees, special operations teams, law enforce-



- ment and public health staff.
- ⇒ They increased emergency shelter capacity by 350 spaces.
- ⇒ They sponsored the first annual Hazardous Weather Awareness Poster and Essay contest for local K-12 students to raise awareness of the different types of dangers caused by hazardous weather.

## E911

Enhanced 911 monitors and implements the technological advancements utilized in the performance of emergency call taking. In conjunction, this department maintains the addressing database for the County.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Maintained the Public Safety Answering Point

equipment which received more than 10,000 calls last year.

- ⇒ Issued 364 new addresses within the County.

## Animal Control

Hardee County Animal Control is responsible for educating the citizens of the County on their legal responsibilities as pet owners and it promotes the adoptions of stray and unwanted pets. They encourage citizens to spay or

**Did you know...**  
*More than 3/4 of all animals impounded result in euthanasia of the animals?*



**Did you know...**  
*The Emergency Management Department conducts disaster preparedness seminars for all residents of Hardee County upon request?*

neuter their pets to reduce the number of unwanted animals that are generated within the County each day. They provide the humane

**Emergency Management, E911, Animal Control, Fire Control, and Emergency Medical Services,**



# Public Safety

capture, impoundment, and if necessary, the euthanasia of stray or unwanted domestic dogs and cats within the unincorporated area of the County.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Responded to 1,373 calls resulting in 1,517 impoundments.
- ⇒ Conducted 156 adoptions and returned 93 lost pets to their owners.
- ⇒ Received a state grant that allowed for a reduced rate spay and neuter program available to County residents.
- ⇒ In conjunction with the IT Department, created a County website which provides information on state laws, county ordinances, and adoption promotions.
- ⇒ Animal Control collaborated with two rescue groups, Canine Castaways and Puppy Love, to have 31 animals rescued from the shelter.

## Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services

These departments have the joint mission of preventing



the loss of lives and property due to fire, life-threatening emergencies and disasters. They are dedicated to provide fire prevention and safety education to all citizens of Hardee County. They are the first responders to all types of emergency calls and thus must constantly train, plan and prepare for all emergencies that should arise.

Accomplishments include:

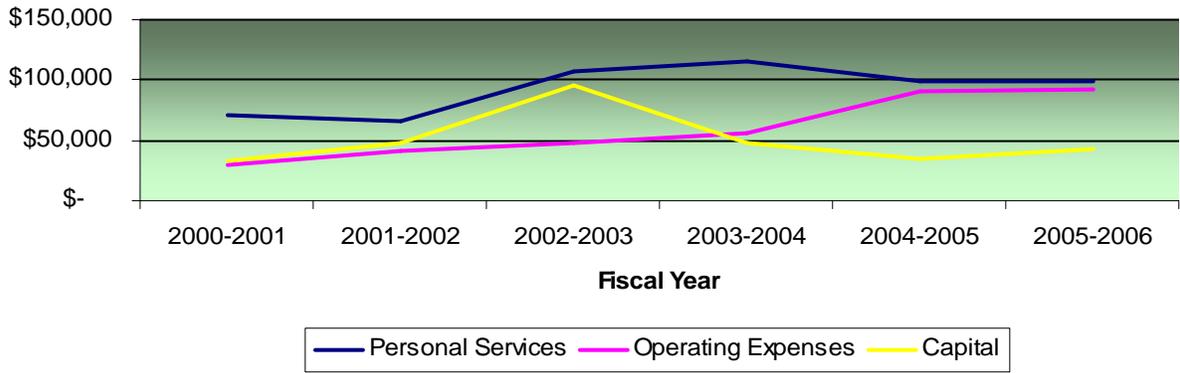
- ⇒ An improved score by the State Insurance Service Office resulted in lower insurance ratings for residences and businesses located within a 5 road mile radius of the fire stations located within the County.

- ⇒ Provided fire prevention training to all elementary schools within the county.
- ⇒ Provided fire inspections and evaluations to several businesses within the county.
- ⇒ EMS utilized over \$26,000 in state revenues for the purchase of new equipment.
- ⇒ These departments responded to 3,653 calls in total including 364 related to fire, 2,145 related to medical emergencies, and 472 related to vehicle accidents.

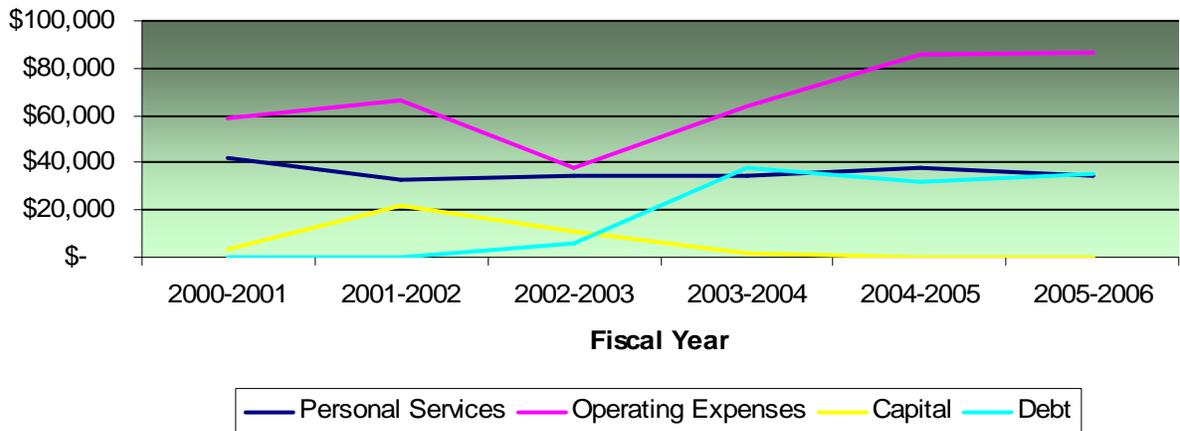
*Did you know...  
The Fire Rescue Department provides free smoke detectors to needy families in Hardee County?*

**Emergency Management, E911, Animal Control, Fire Control, and Emergency Medical Services,**

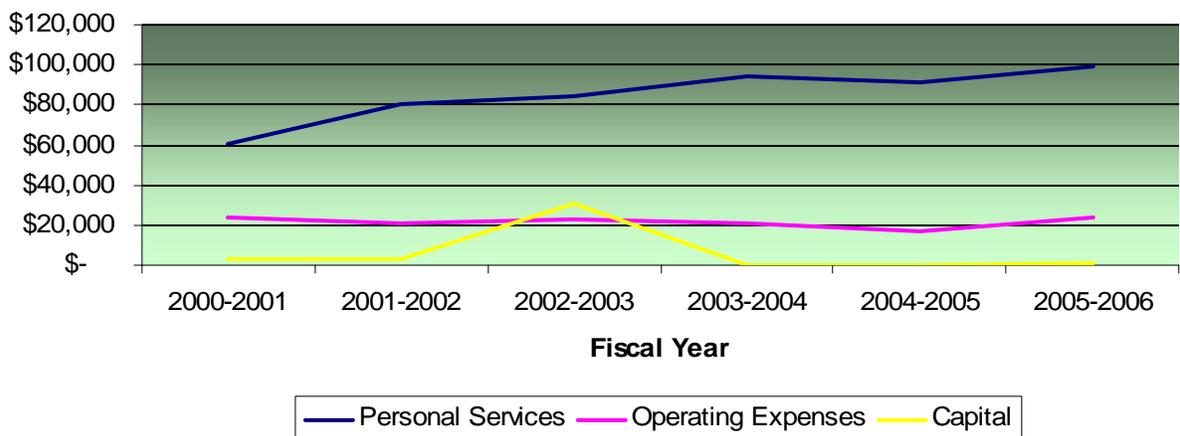
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Emergency Management



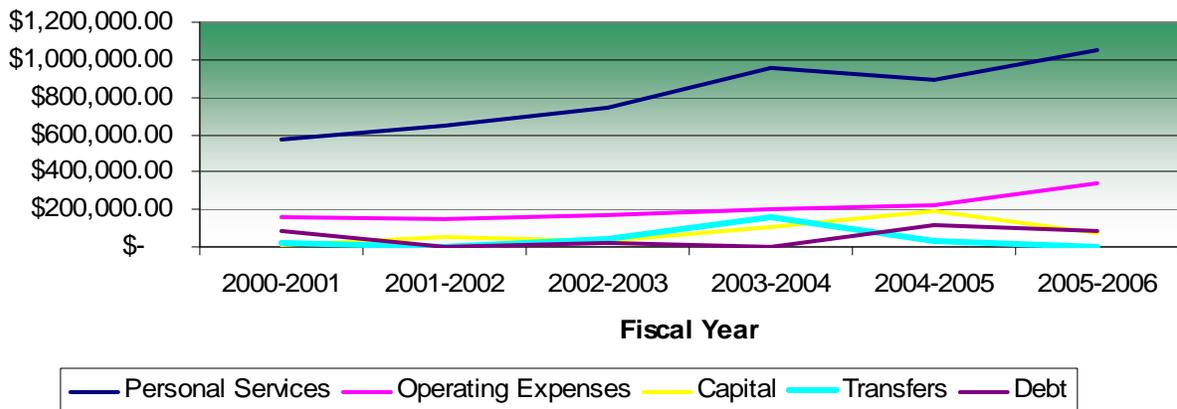
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-E911



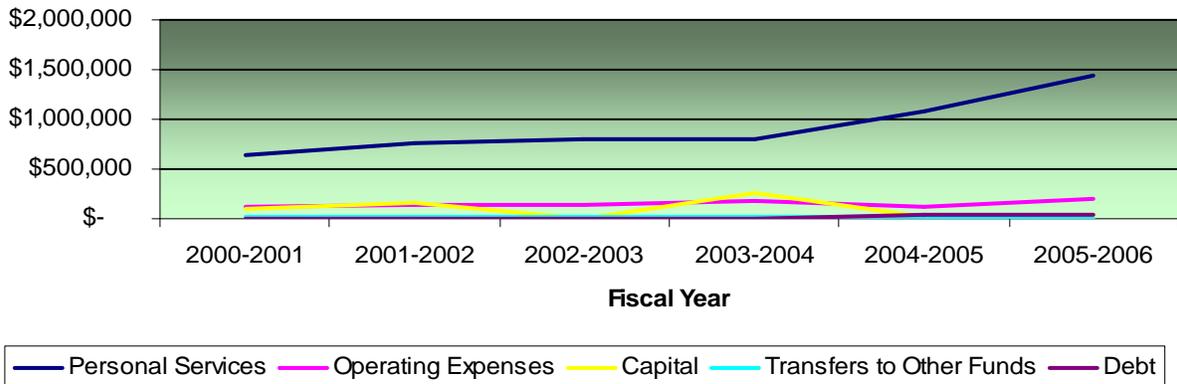
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Animal Control



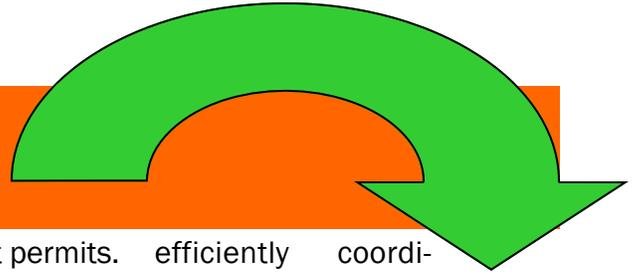
**Historial Trend of Expenditures-Fire Rescue**



**Historical Trend of Expenditures-Emergency Medical Services**



# Public Works



## Transportation

This department serves to maintain the County's transportation system including roads and bridges and provides a safe system to develop and provide high levels of service by planning, scheduling and controlling these systems. This is the largest department within the county and they are responsible for the construction and maintenance of 310 miles of paved roads, 201 miles of unpaved roads, and 70 bridges. In addition, they are responsible for evaluating and issuing permits for telephone, culvert, electrical and private utility infrastructures placed within the right of ways, and signs, ditch and culvert repair and maintenance.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Completed the widening and resurfacing of Murphy Road.
- ⇒ Performed more than 2,000 miles of road grading and blading.
- ⇒ Over 10,000 acres of land mowed throughout the county.
- ⇒ Responded to and satisfied 455 complaints.
- ⇒ Issued 89 utility permits

- and 147 culvert permits.
- ⇒ Coordinated joint agreements with FDOT for SCRAP projects to include approximately 20 miles of road.
- ⇒ Coordinated Hurricane repairs to take place in fiscal year 2006-2007 consisting of 126 various

efficiently coordinated with other county work programs and projects to further ensure the least interference to the operations of each department.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Staff obtained certifications in Fire Apparatus



sites damaged in 2004.

## Fleet Maintenance

Fleet Maintenance is responsible for providing safe, dependable equipment to all county departments. They must ensure that all work activities and programs of the maintenance division are

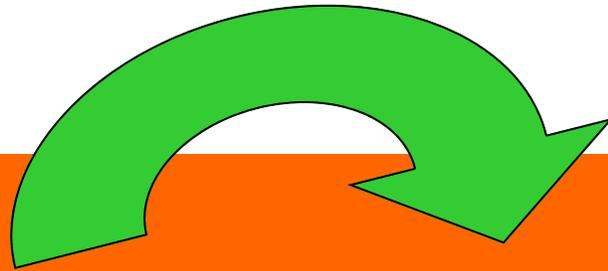
Electrical Systems, Apparatus Design, Management 1, Master Auto, Master Truck, and Master Truck Equipment.

- ⇒ Completed over 2,000 repair orders.

**Transportation, Fleet Maintenance, Facilities Management, Utilities, and Solid Waste**

*Did you know...  
Hardee County has 369 units maintained by Fleet Maintenance, 72 of which are emergency vehicles?*

# Public Works



## Facilities Management

Facilities Management is responsible for providing a clean, safe and comfortable work environment for all county and public facilities owned by the county. This includes performing all maintenance of the facilities and adjusting accommodations to meet the needs of the occupants. This department also constructs new facilities as needed or oversees the contracted resources used for new construction.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Refurbished the Human Resources facility.
- ⇒ Completed a major repair on the stage lighting at the civic center.
- ⇒ Completed repairs to Rest Haven caused by the 2004 hurricanes.

- ⇒ Continued interior renovations at the Annex II.
- ⇒ Assisted in all preparations of Pioneer Park Days.

## Utilities

This is one of our newest departments and its main objective is to ensure the health and well being of county residents as well as encouraging economic development through the on-going expansion of water and wastewater infrastructures. This department included the Vandolah Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Wauchula Hills Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Added new customers to the Wauchula Hills system including the new Hill Top School Facility, Lake Cooperation/Scosta, and Organix South.
- ⇒ Continued planning and initiated the design and permitting to begin adding residential connections to the Wauchula Hills system and also to refurbish and replace systems within the unincorporated area south of



Bowling Green.

- ⇒ Initiated the design activities for Wauchula Hills plant expansions.
- ⇒ Submitted legislative packet resulting in 3.2 million dollar award in state allocation for the plant expansion and line extensions.

## Solid Waste Landfill

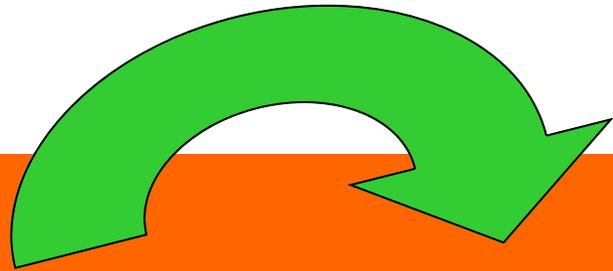
The Solid Waste Department provides for the proper management and disposal of all solid waste generated within the borders of Hardee County using practices that ensure the sanctity of the county's environment and that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners. Solid Waste disposal includes waste generated from the commercial and residen-



Organix-South

**Transportation, Fleet Maintenance, Facilities Management, Utilities, and Solid Waste**

# Public Works



tial units as well as wood and yard trash and construction and demolition debris. 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. They manage specialized programs such as the Notification and Verification Program for commercial evaluations of hazardous waste generation, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, Household Sharps Collection Program, and Recycling.

Accomplishments include:

⇒ Began a five acre expan-

sion of the Class I Landfill.

⇒ Completed various site improvements mandated by the Department of Environmental Protections including placement of new gas trenches, installation of drainage structures, and placement of survey markers for final filling of existing site.

⇒ Held quarterly Household Hazardous Waste Collections resulting in the proper disposal of more than 27 tons of hazardous waste.

⇒ Disbursed and collected 183 sharps containers; providing citizens with a safe storage method and

preventing disposal of bio-hazardous materials into the landfill.

⇒ Diverted 1,231 tons of waste from disposal to recycling.

## Solid Waste Recycling

Accomplishments include:

⇒ American Electronic Recycling provides a roll-off bin for electronics since the Department of Environmental services mandates no electronics in the landfill.

⇒ The following was processed by recycling:

⇒ Scrap metal—886 tons

⇒ Lead acid batteries—14.8 tons

⇒ Cardboard—50 tons

⇒ Newsprint—14 tons

⇒ Wood chips—1,110 tons

⇒ E-Scrap—35 tons

⇒ Tires—113 tons

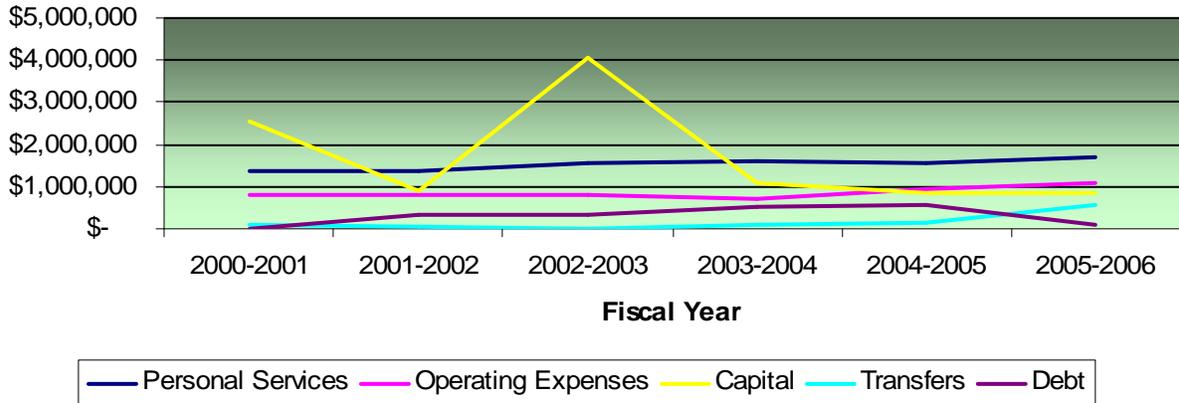
⇒ Used oil—2,490 gallons



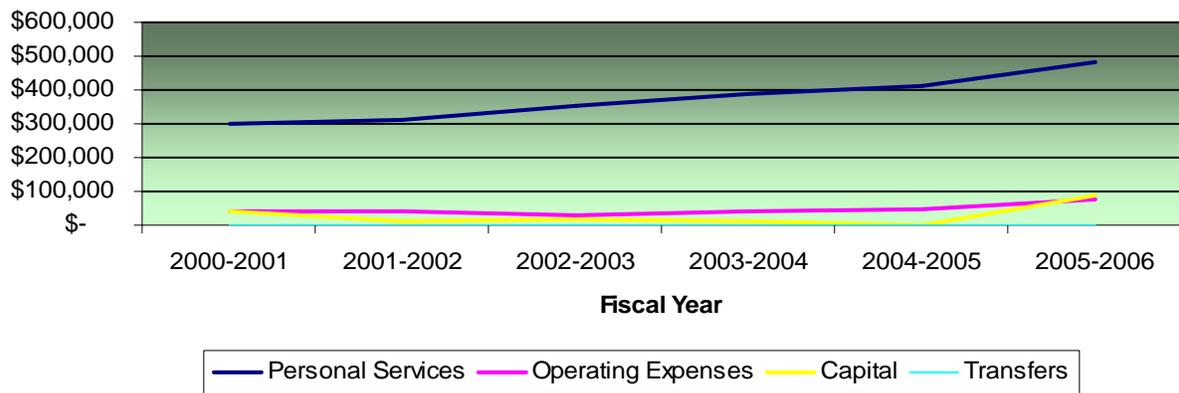
**Did you know...**  
There was 1,962 pounds of solid waste generated per person in Hardee County last year?

**Transportation, Fleet Maintenance, Facilities Management, Utilities, and Solid Waste**

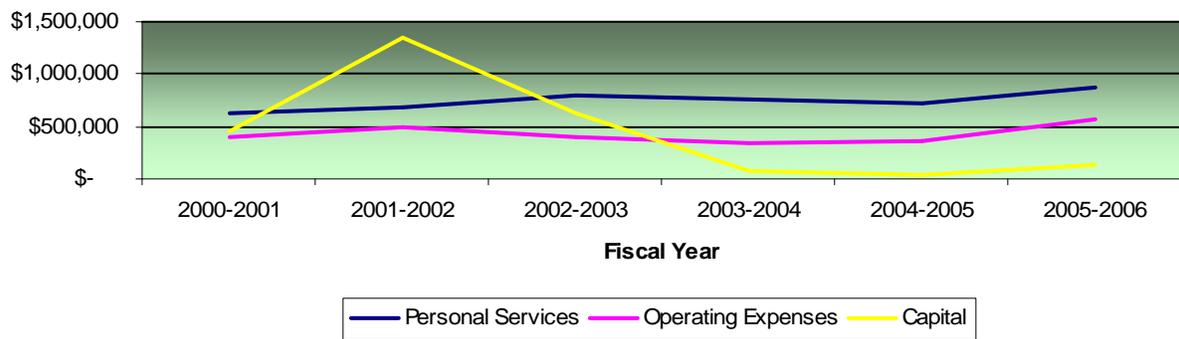
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Transportation



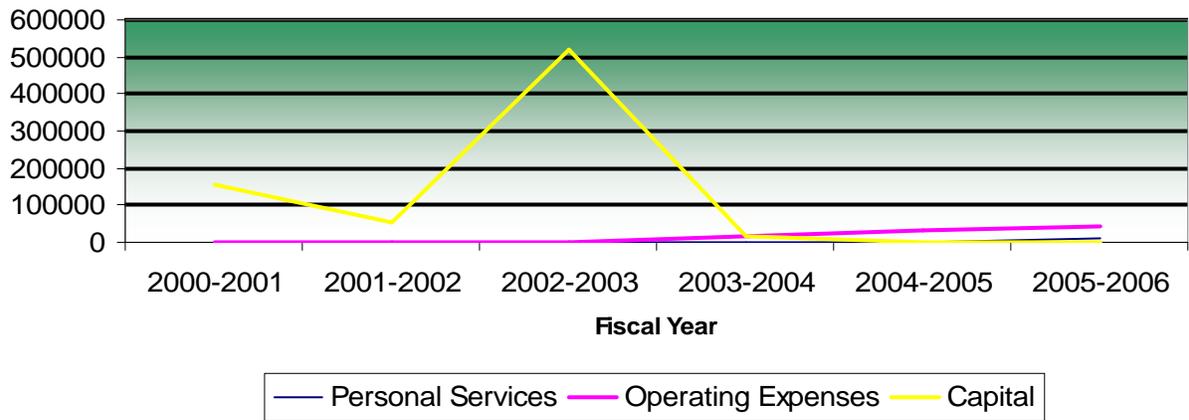
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Fleet Maintenance



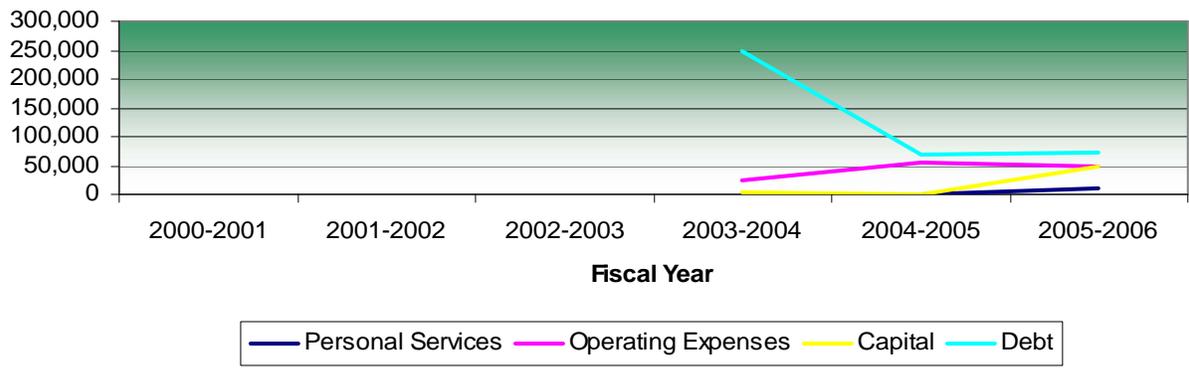
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Facilities Management



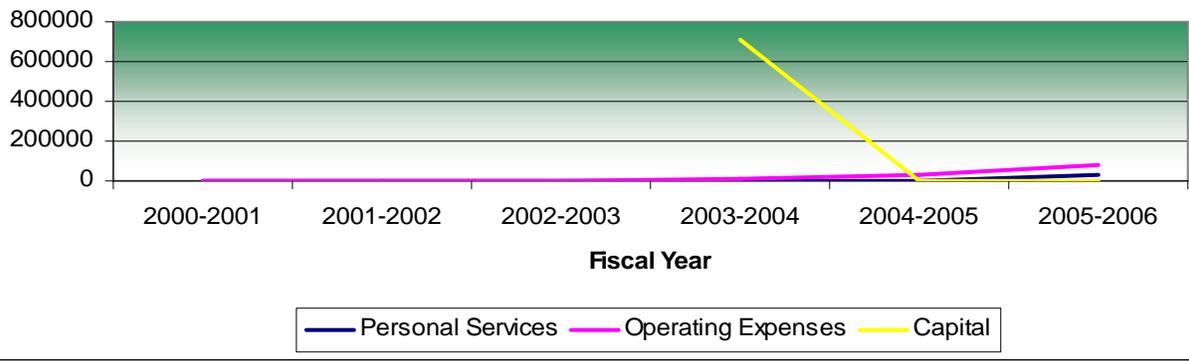
### Historical Trends of Expenditures-Vandolah



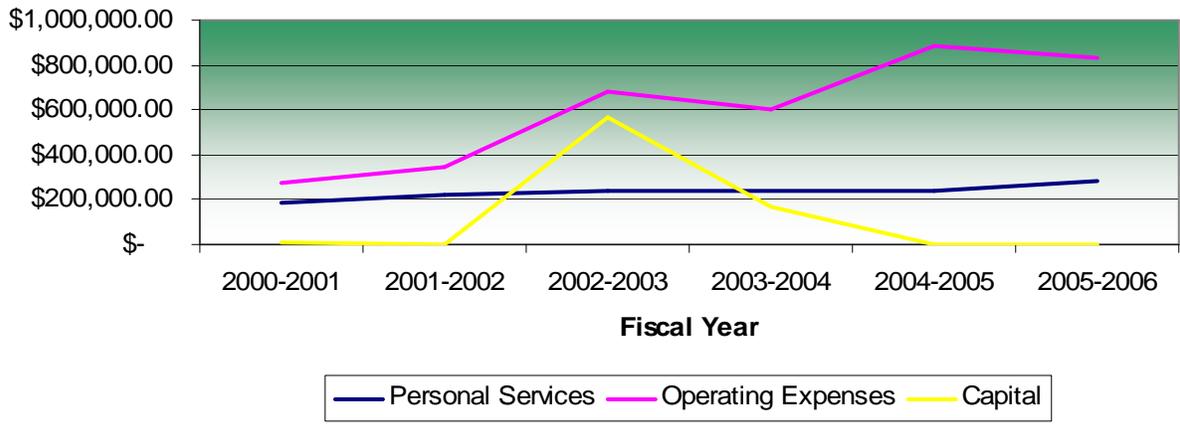
### Historical trend of Expenditures-WH Water



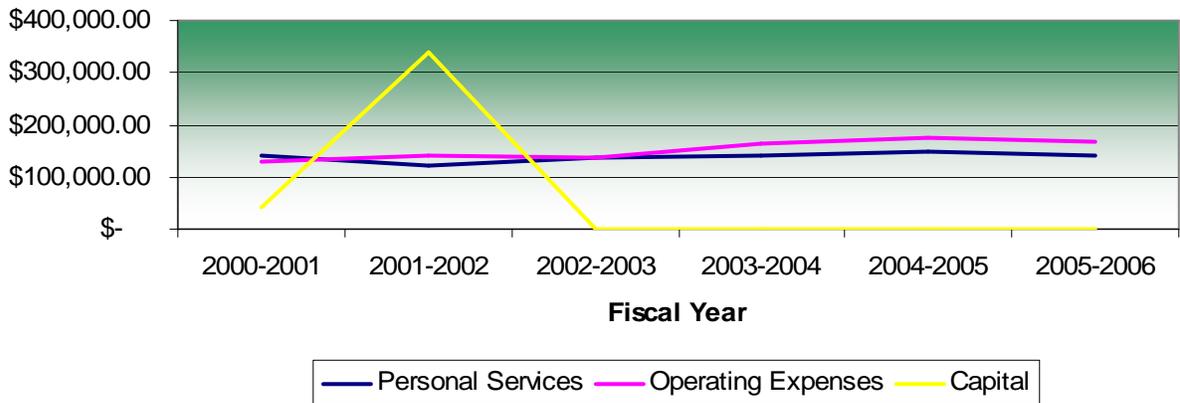
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-WH Wastewater

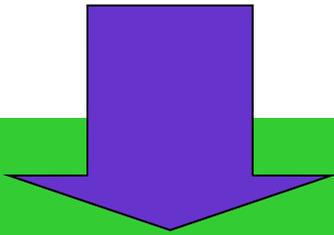


### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Solid Waste Landfill



### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Solid Waste Recycling





# Growth Management

## Planning and Development

This department has recently been broken out of the former Building and Zoning Department. It has been established to enhance the mission of managing an orderly growth within the county in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Evaluated major special exception for the development of a center for animals on Parnell Road.
- ⇒ Provided zoning determinations and information data sheets to the public for ease with land development plans.
- ⇒ Evaluated and issued 2 special exceptions, 22 rezones, 25 site development plans, 803 zoning determinations, 1 temporary special use permit and 29 sub division plats.



## Building & Code Enforcement

The building and Code Enforcement Department must ensure that all structures are constructed according to adopted codes and ordi-

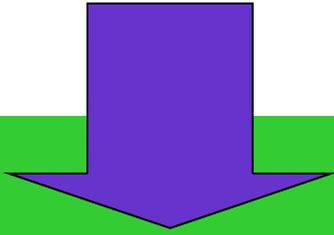
nances that are designed to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of county citizens.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Review of more than 59 million dollars worth of

*Did you know...  
Planning and Development can provide flood plain and wetland information?*

**Planning & Zoning, Building & Code Enforcement, Mining**



# Growth Management

- new construction.
- ⇒ Issued 1,410 permits for new construction.
- ⇒ Conducted 3,965 inspections.
- ⇒ Attended 125 court cases related to code violations.
- ⇒ Issued 1 inspection warrant.

## Mining

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

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Conducted monthly water quality samplings and reviewed and responded to each monthly report.
- ⇒ Reviewed Development of Regional Impact (DRI) application from Mosaic for South Ft. Meade Mine extension (approximately 10,885 acres) and Ona



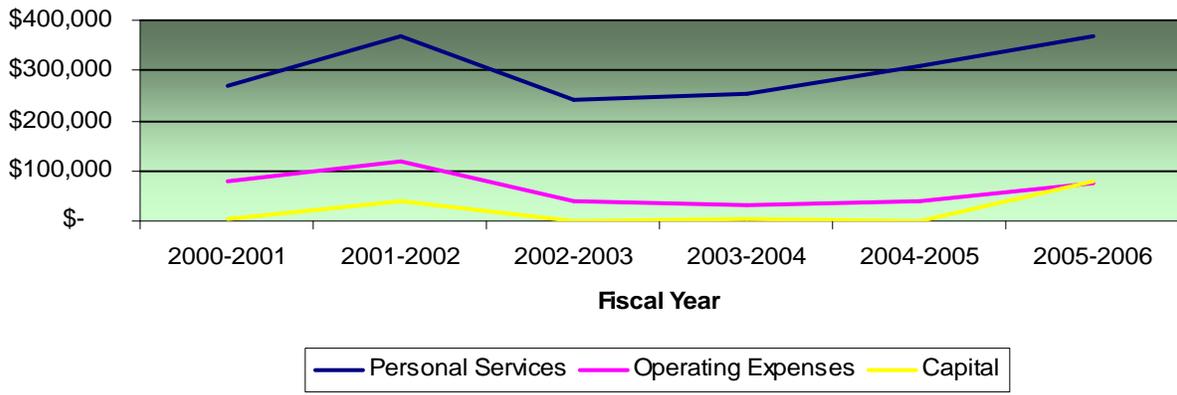
- ⇒ Mine application.
- ⇒ Coordinated with State and Federal agencies on all projects and activities related to mining and DRI projects.
- ⇒ Coordinated with CF Industries and attained master mining and Reclamation Plan.
- ⇒ Reviewed Notice of Proposed Change Application modifying the CF Industries Hardee Phosphate Complex Development Order.
- ⇒ Coordinated with FDEP and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) to attain approval for the proposed changes to the Development Orders.
- ⇒ Ensured timely reclamation and assured that the

- Hardee County Mining Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan are implemented properly.
- ⇒ Conducted monthly clay settling area and sand clay mix area dam inspections and reviewed and responded to each report.
- ⇒ Staff attended every Florida Department of Environmental Protection inspection for CF Industries and Mosaic.
- ⇒ Staff received training on environmental permitting, water use permitting, and water quality monitoring.
- ⇒ Numerous field surveys were conducted.

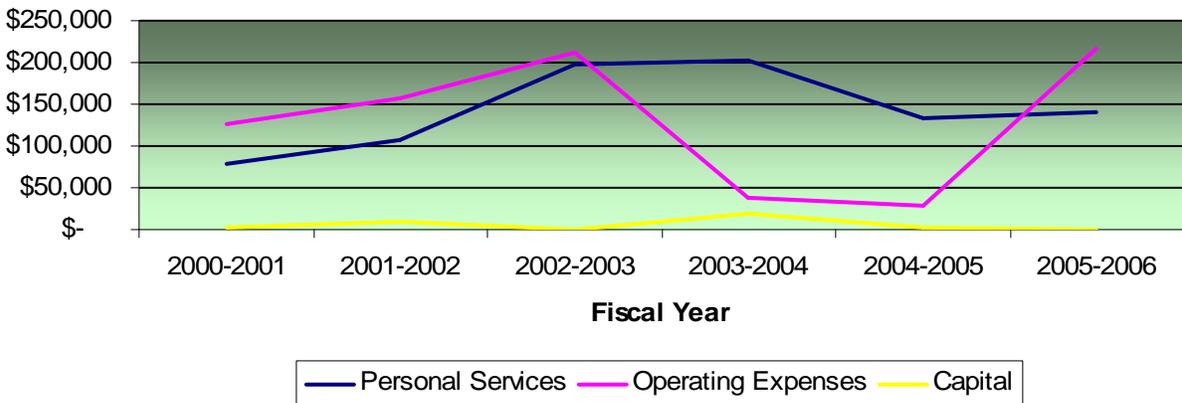
**Planning & Zoning, Building & Code Enforcement, Mining**

***Did you know...  
More than 110,000 acres  
in Hardee County belong to  
the mining industry?  
That's 27% of our land  
mass.***

### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Planning & Zoning



### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Mining



# Community Development



## Community Development

This office is the core of most all grant activities for the county and as the importance of new infrastructure was recognized, so too was the need for further grant funding to ensure growth of our community. Numerous grants have successfully been obtained to achieve the goals set forth by the Board of County Commissioners. In most instances, the administrative expenses of the department are offset by grant funds. This department is also dedicated to improving the quality of life for low and moderate income citizens of

Hardee County through grant funded housing programs.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Awarded 2 FRDAP grants in the amount of \$200,000 each for the development of a baseball complex and for the expansion of Hardee Park to include a soccer complex.
- ⇒ Successfully completed the Land and Water Conservation Grant project for the Hardee Lakes Development project and received \$150,000 reimbursement of expenses.
- ⇒ Received and expended \$453,434 from the CDBG

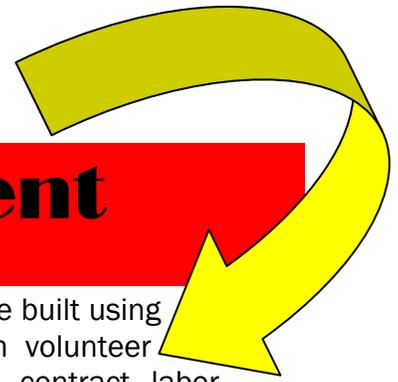
Emergency Housing Grant to assist with repairs and replacement costs of 24 homes damaged or destroyed from the 2004 hurricane season.

- ⇒ Successfully sought and collected \$59,963 of defaulted housing liens to return to program for continued housing assistance.
- ⇒ Formed 6 county consortium for HOME funds, and wrote and submitted consolidated plans which led to \$750,000 awarded for the 6 counties.
- ⇒ Administered several ongoing housing program grants such as SHIP, SHIP Disaster, Home Again, CDBG Housing and HHRP for a total grant award of \$10,142,860. These are multi year grant programs that consist of housing repairs, housing replacement, temporary relocation, first-time homeownership, rental assistance and new development assistance.

*Did you know...  
OCD assisted with the new construction of 82 single family homes over the past 24 months?*

**Office of Community Development including SHIP, CDBG, HHRP, and Home Again Grants**

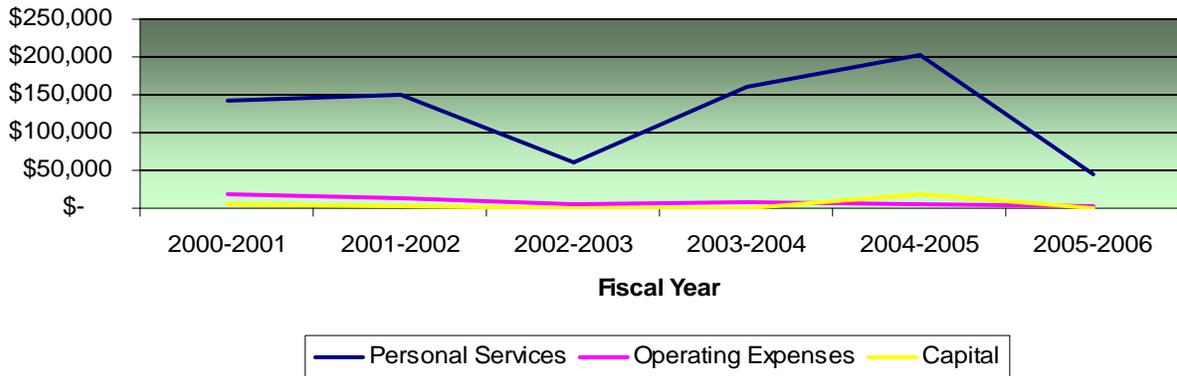
# Community Development



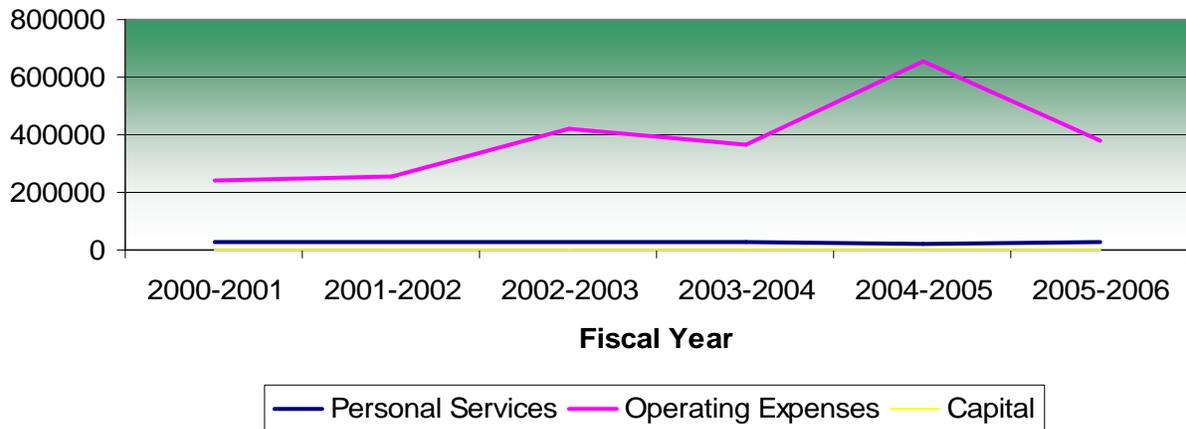
- ⇒ Developed program guidelines on behalf of the Economic Development Authority.
- ⇒ Prepared and submitted several Health Care Grants including Blue Fountain, Closing the Gap, and Rural Health Outreach.
- ⇒ Administered year two of the \$103,000 Primary Care Grant.
- ⇒ CDBG/DRI wastewater improvement project awarded to Swanson Construction due for completion in 2007. Grant award \$2,225,000.
- ⇒ 193 applications were received and processed for housing assistance.
- ⇒ Successfully assisted with the purchase of 42 first-time homeownership projects totaling \$1,020,632.
- ⇒ 48 replacement homes were built using both volunteer and contract labor for families that lost their homes due to 2004 hurricanes.
- ⇒ 400 trees, lost from Hurricane Charley, were replaced with \$133,332 in grant funds from the Pioneer Park Reforestation Grant program.



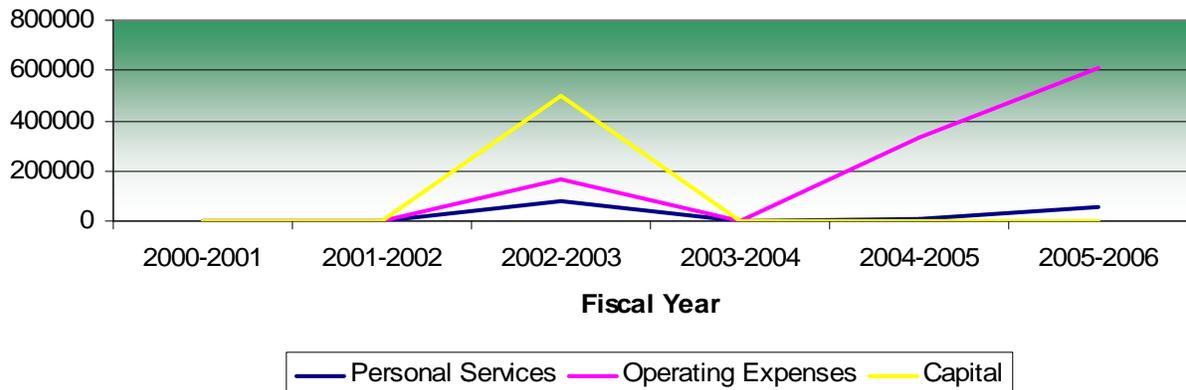
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Office of Community Development

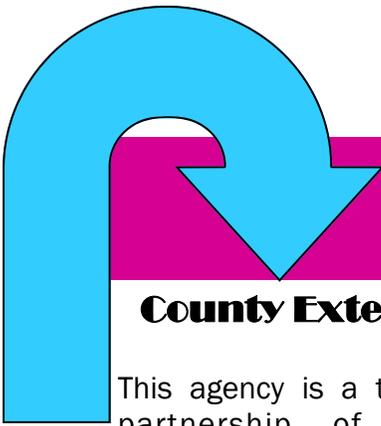


### Historical Trend of Expenditures-SHIP



### Historical Trend of Expenditures-CDBG





# Community Services

## County Extension

This agency is a three way partnership of Federal (USDA), State (University of Florida), and County government created by the Smith-Lever Act. This partnership was established in order to ensure that useful knowledge generated by research institutions are interpreted for and delivered to the people of Hardee County. The primary extension programs are in agriculture, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and energy information.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ 4 Small Farm Conferences were held around the state to introduce new agricultural producers on small acreages to livestock and crop production practices.
- ⇒ Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade show was held in Kissimmee and was attended by 400-600 Florida cattle and forage producers.
- ⇒ Goat Herd Health Management seminar held for small ruminant producers concerned with herd health issues.

- ⇒ Various methods of pasture establishment and renovation are shown for both commercial forage producers as well as ranchers.
- ⇒ Artificial Insemination of Beef Cattle is held annually for cattle producers interested in upgrading their genetics and learning how to breed cattle artificially.
- ⇒ Beef Cattle Short Course is a six evening course designed to cover all aspects of beef production and marketing.
- ⇒ The Winter Supplementation Program emphasizes on evaluating forages and supplementing the cow

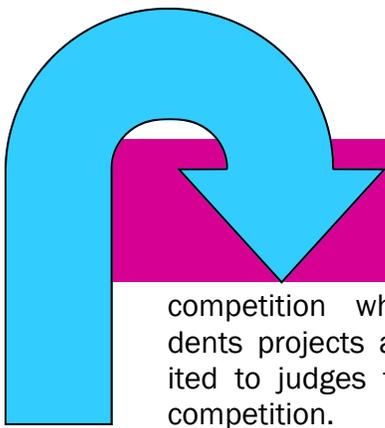
herd in areas where forage is deficient.

- ⇒ The Extension Office participated in Ag-Fest which included two goat demonstrations including meat goats and dairy goats as well as good eating habits and nutrition. Over 400 fourth grade students attended.
- ⇒ Monthly nutrition classes are held for elementary, junior high and high school students, senior adults, teen parents, and child care providers.
- ⇒ Oversees the Annual 4-H

*Did you know...  
Hardee County rates  
third in the state for teen  
pregnancy?*



**County Extension, Library, Parks & Recreation, Animal Refuge, Pioneer Park Days, Human Services, Veterans and Probation**



# Community Services

competition where students projects are exhibited to judges for future competition.

- ⇒ Teen Pregnancy Prevention classes are held weekly at Hardee Jr. High School in an ongoing effort to reduce teen pregnancy in Hardee County.
- ⇒ A two day Forage and Grazing School is held at the extension office consisting of lectures on various aspects of forage production and tours of local forage producers using innovative methods and

best management practices.

- ⇒ 4-H Club and Home and Community Education Council meetings are held monthly at the Extension Office.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Began Library Expansion from 13,200 to 15,648 square feet approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- ⇒ State Ad to Libraries funding awarded in the amount of \$79,695.
- ⇒ State Library of Florida awarded 2 grants totaling \$17,900 providing equipment and materials for 2–6 week family reading programs.
- ⇒ Library staff coordinated the monthly Artist/Author exhibit of drawings and writings by kindergarten through grade five students, in collaboration with The Friends of the Library.

## Library

The library provides quality customer service to the public including increased access to information, collection development and resource sharing. The county participates in an interlocal mission with the Heartland Library Cooperative to provide resources to county residence from a shared bank.

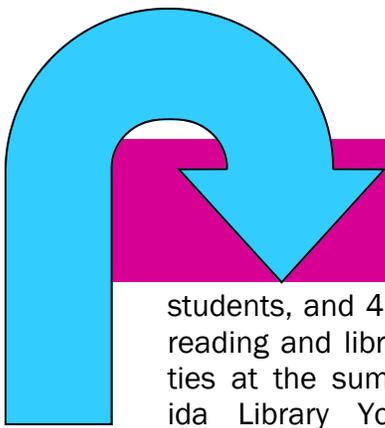
- ⇒ The Heartland Library Cooperative web site ([www.myhlc.org](http://www.myhlc.org)) allows patrons to access the library from home to review their accounts, reserve and renew material, download audio books, and provide free access to Florida Electronic Library Internet.
- ⇒ 902 children attended 29 programs including story hours for preschoolers, programs for home-schooled and elementary

### Did you know...

*The Public Access Management System allows patrons to access the library Internet computers with their library cards?*



**County Extension, Library, Parks & Recreation, Animal Refuge, Pioneer Park Days, Human Services, Veterans and Probation**



# Community Services

students, and 4 weeks of The parks include the newly reading and library activi- developed Hardee Lakes, ties at the summer Flor- Hardee Park, and Pioneer Hardee Park, and Pioneer Florida Library Youth Pro- Park which is also home to gram. the county Animal Refuge

⇒ 12 portable laptops and several other small re- help provide free recreational areas.

Accomplishments include:

⇒ Various projects were completed at Hardee Lakes Park including the Boardwalk and viewing node, the Conservation Building, Park Managers house, restrooms and the floating dock.

⇒ Completed projects at Pioneer Park include the demolition of the animal pens by the museum, refurbished the Park Managers house, and the planting of 400 trees with a grant received from the Reforestation Grant program.



*Did you know...  
The County maintains  
1,400 acres for outdoor  
recreation?*

weekly computer classes to the public.

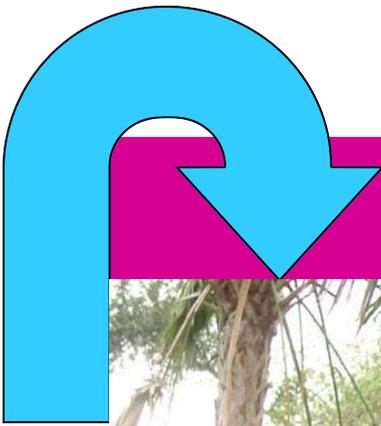
⇒ 12,776 patrons visited the library on 44,998 occasions.

## Parks & Recreation

This department strives to provide a clean, safe and exciting outdoor environment for county residents to visit and enjoy outdoor recreation.



**County Extension, Library, Parks & Recreation, Animal Refuge, Pioneer Park Days, Human Services, Veterans and Probation**



# Community Services



This event has occurred for the past 37 years and is planned and managed by the Human Resources Department and staffed with employees from various departments throughout the county. It has grown to be one of the largest exhibits in the southeastern United States and attracts exhibitors and vendors from all areas of the U.S. and Canada. Proceeds collected for admissions go toward park improvements and the cost of the show.

## Did you know...

Groups visiting the refuge include schools from Hardee, Polk, Highlands, and Desoto counties, as well as group homes, civic groups, boy/girl scouts, and church groups?

## Animal Refuge

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Numerous additions were completed to the Animal Refuge including:
  - ⇒ Climbing platforms for the bobcats
  - ⇒ Fire hose hammock for the bears
  - ⇒ Hammocks for the raccoons
  - ⇒ Jolly balls for the cougars
  - ⇒ A new Bat house
  - ⇒ Employee boardwalk access steps

- ⇒ 15 cypress trees to the white tail deer exhibit
- ⇒ Oak trees to the Ostrich exhibit
- ⇒ Addition of 2 bobcat kittens, 2 white tail deer, 1 cougar, and 4 raccoons bringing the total number of animals to 35.
- ⇒ 14,309 guests visited the Animal Refuge bringing in a yearly gate admission of \$13,962.
- ⇒ \$1,390 were received in donations.

## Pioneer Park Days

Clearly for the benefit and enjoyment of our county residents, the Board has established an annual pride event known as Pioneer Park Days.

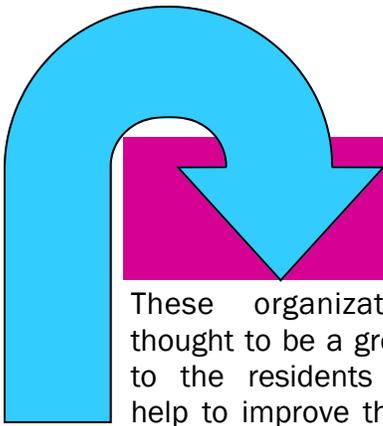
Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Ticket sales for the 5 day event totaled \$48,426.00.
- ⇒ Children's activities were increased including pony rides and face painting.
- ⇒ Flea market spaces sold out filling all 491 spaces.
- ⇒ Lights, staging and sound equipment were enhanced to provide daily entertainment.

## Human Services

The Hardee County Board of County Commissioners participates in allocating county funds to various non-profit organizations that are established within the county.

**County Extension, Library, Parks & Recreation, Animal Refuge, Pioneer Park Days, Human Services, Veterans and Probation**



# Community Services

These organizations are thought to be a great benefit to the residents and they help to improve the physical and mental state of needy residents. They also provide many needed elderly services as well as promoting the economic strength and community environment that is necessary for a healthy community.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ The following non-profit organizations received funding from the county:
  - ⇒ Department of Health
  - ⇒ Health Care Task Force
  - ⇒ Peace River Center
  - ⇒ Hope of Hardee
  - ⇒ Resthaven
  - ⇒ HARC (Hardee Association for Retarded Citizens)
  - ⇒ Caring People Ministries
  - ⇒ Tri-County Addictions
  - ⇒ ATC Inteltran

- ⇒ Cutting Edge Ministries
- ⇒ Chamber of Commerce
- ⇒ Wauchula Main Street
- ⇒ Housing Authority
- ⇒ Recreation Complex
- ⇒ YMCA

## Veterans

The mission of this department 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. In February of 2006, the county lost their Veterans Affairs Officer. This position has not been filled due to a lack of qualified applicants and therefore our veterans have been referred to the DeSoto County office. DeSoto County has reported seeing an average of 1 veteran from Hardee County per day. The Public Safety Director is working diligently to solicit more qualified applicants.

meanor 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.

Accomplishments include:

- ⇒ 333 new probation cases were taken in, including 48 community service only cases.
- ⇒ Warrants were issued for 149 non-compliers for failure to cooperate and abide by instructions.
- ⇒ 119 warrant cases were apprehended and probation status revoked.
- ⇒ \$77,666 in probation fees were collected.
- ⇒ Assisted the Clerk's office in collecting court ordered obligations totaling \$86,032.
- ⇒ Collected \$4,664 in restitution to victims of crimes.

### *Did you know...*

*Probationers accomplished 2,494 hours of community service at the Hardee County Road Department and Pioneer Park benefiting the County by \$15,765?*

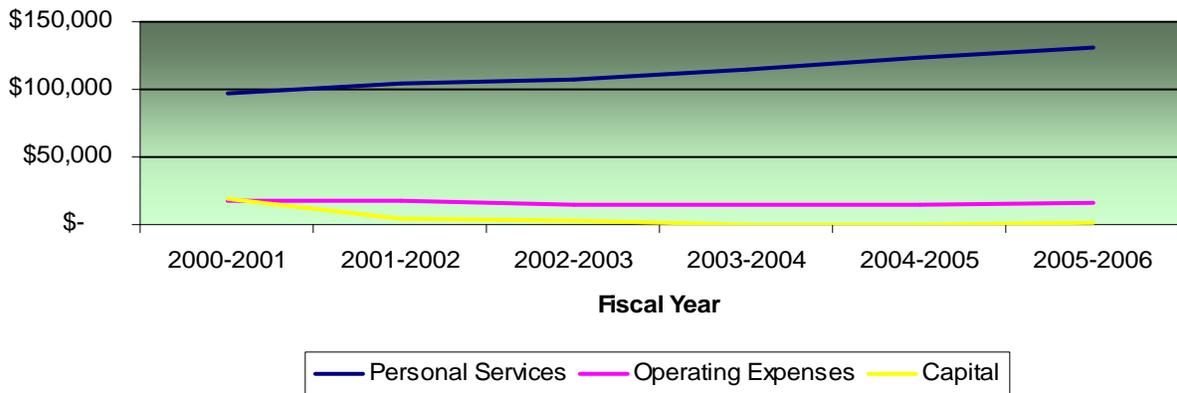
## Probation

This department provides supervision services to the court system for misde-

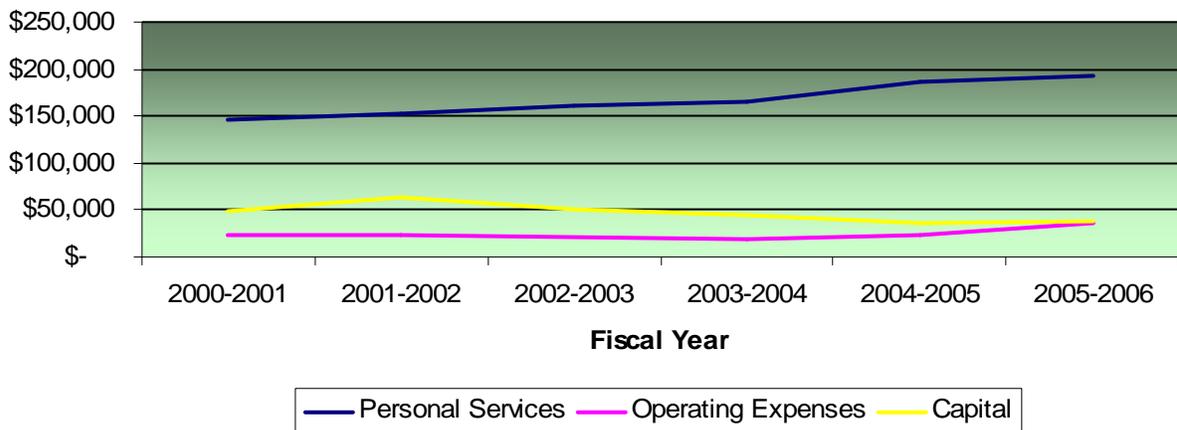


**County Extension, Library, Parks & Recreation, Animal Refuge, Pioneer Park Days, Human Services, Veterans and Probation**

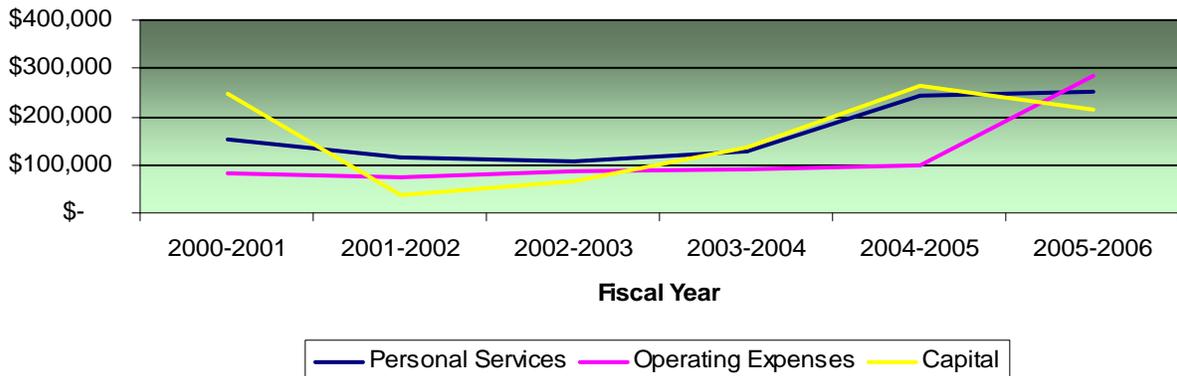
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-County Extension



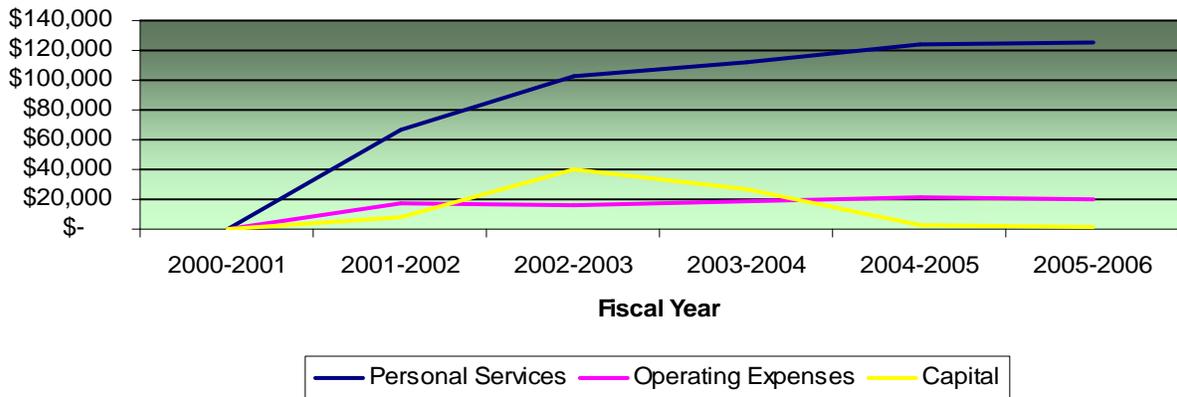
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Library



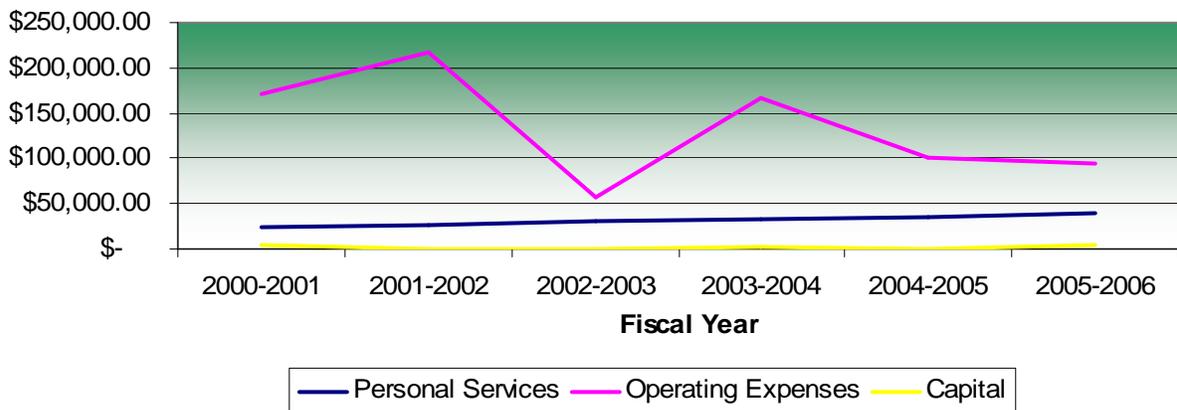
### Historical Trend of Expenditures-Parks & Recreation



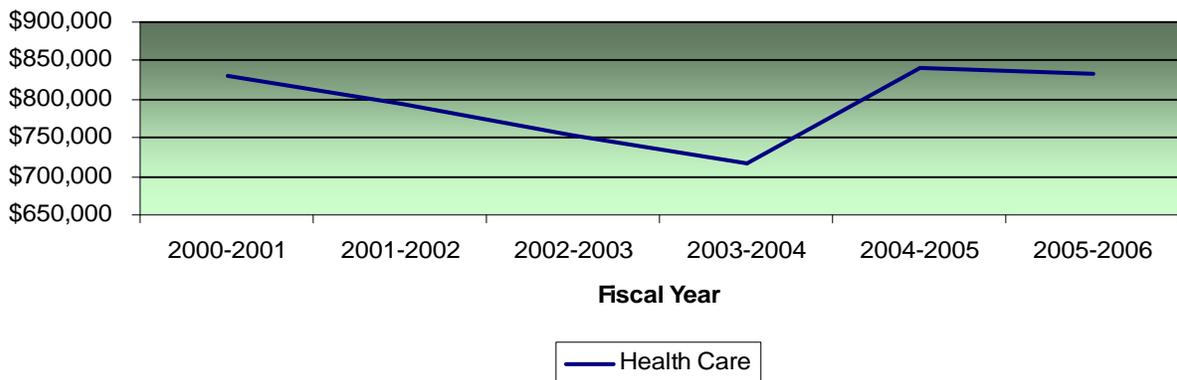
**Historical Trend of Expenditures-Animal Refuge**

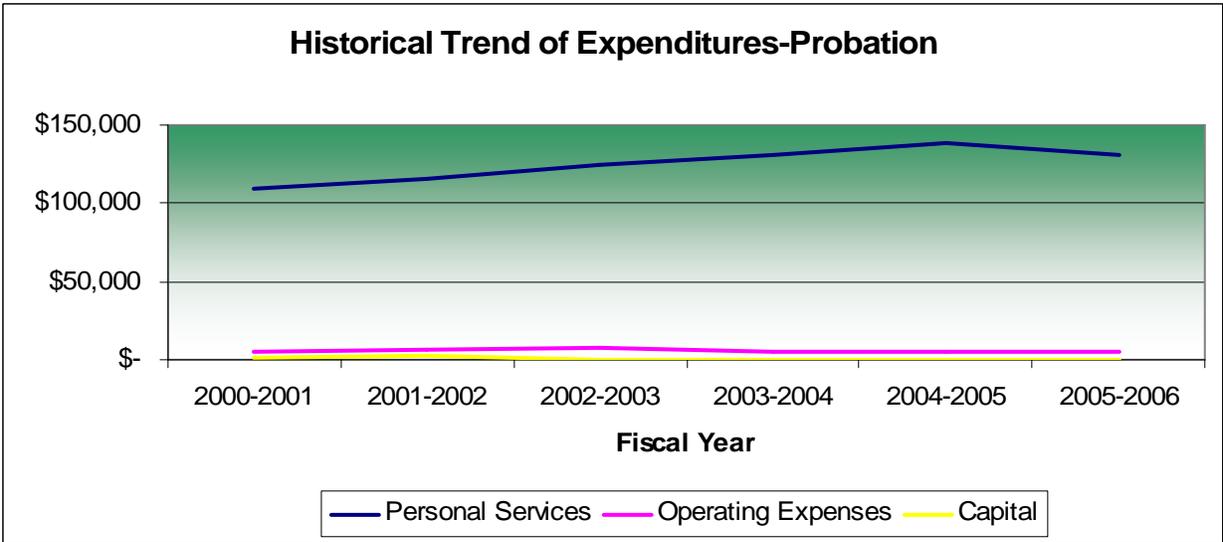
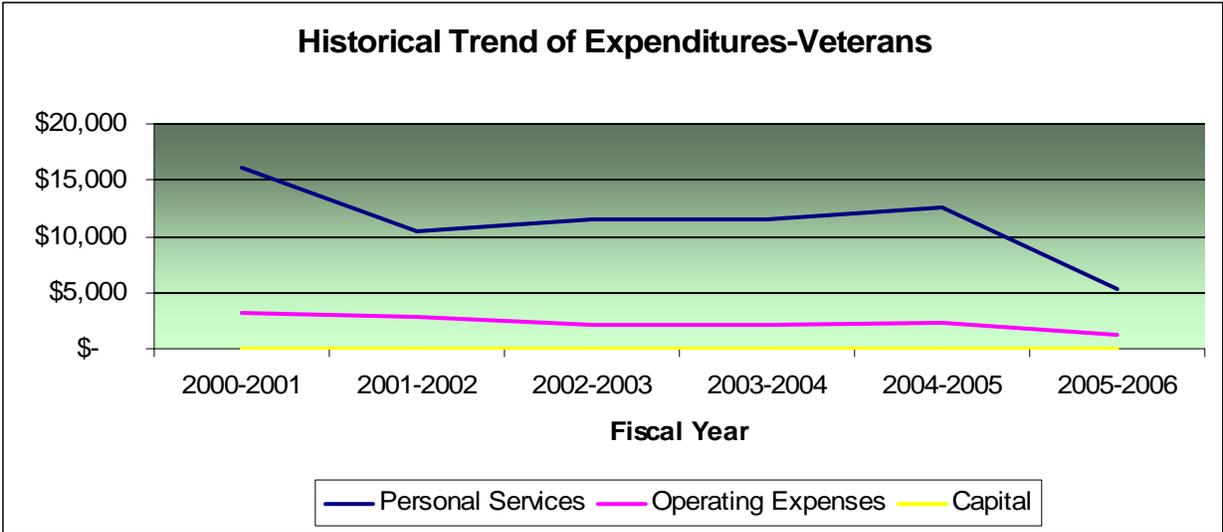


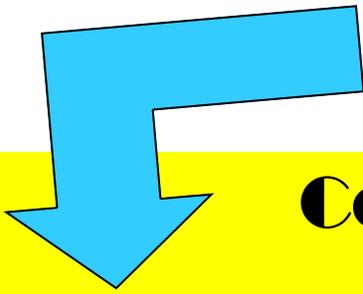
**Historical Trend of Expenditures-Pioneer Park Days**



**Historical Trend of Expenditures-Human Services**







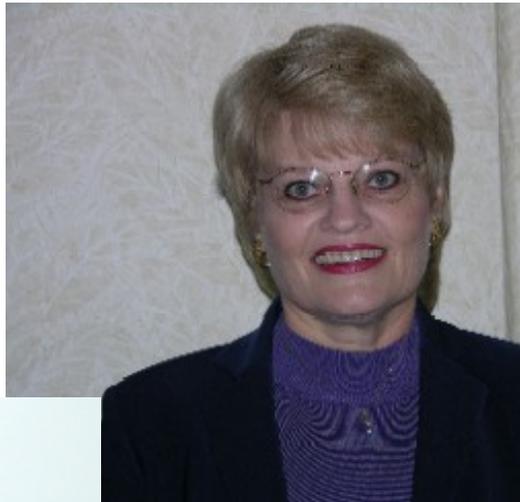
# Constitutional Officers

## Sheriff

The Hardee County Sheriff's Office is the law enforcement branch of the County government. One of the primary objectives of the Sheriff's Office is to provide a safe, secure community environment for all residents. The Sheriff's Office serves the community by protecting life and property, preserving peace and order, preventing and detecting crime, managing the county jail, enforcing all laws and ordinances, and promoting the safe, efficient use of the county's streets and

highways. The Hardee County Sheriff's Office consists of many specialized divisions, including Criminal Investigations, Narcotics Investigations, SWAT, Uniform Patrol, Crime Scene, Warrants, Civil and the Corrections (jail) division.

Kathy Crawford, Property Appraiser



Zee Smith, Tax Collector

## Tax Collector

The Tax Collector is responsible for the collection of ad valorem taxes and other taxes set at the local level, including those by special levying districts, state agencies, and county commissions. The Tax Collector also acts as an agent of several state departments, including the Department of Revenue,

the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and the Fresh Water Fish Commission.

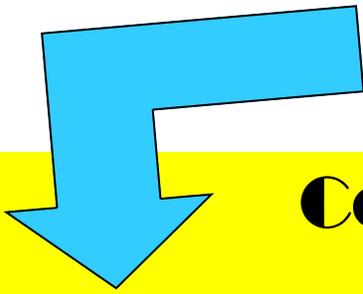
## Property Appraiser

The mission of the Property Appraiser is to fairly and equitably discover, list, and value all real and tangible personal property for the purpose of creating the annual ad valorem tax roll in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes. The Property Appraiser is a constitutional officer elected every four years



Lorán Cogburn, Sheriff

***Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Clerk of the Court, and Supervisor of Elections***



# Constitutional Officers

by the citizens of Hardee County. Unlike many states where the property appraiser and taxing authorities work together, Florida's constitution provides a clear separation between the appraisal of property and the authorities responsible for setting a millage rate to raise revenue.

## Clerk of the Court

The Clerk of the Courts serves as an elected public trustee, providing a system of "checks and balances" at the county level which has proven to serve the public well. Established by Florida

B. Hugh Bradley, Clerk of the Court



Constitution, the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court is responsible to serve the citizens of the county as custodian of all county funds and guardian of the public records. The Clerk is governed by statutory authority in carrying out the duties and functions of the office. Most importantly, the Clerk is subject to the evaluations and scrutiny of the public through the election process every four (4) years.

## Supervisor of Elections

It is the mission of the Supervisor of Elections office and all who work within it to serve the people of Hardee County and represent them with pride throughout the State of Florida and this great Nation in which we live.

We are here to assist our community in whatever aspect is needed to ensure your right to voice your opinion through the election process.

Our open door policy ensures that everyone from the person passing through our community seeking direc-

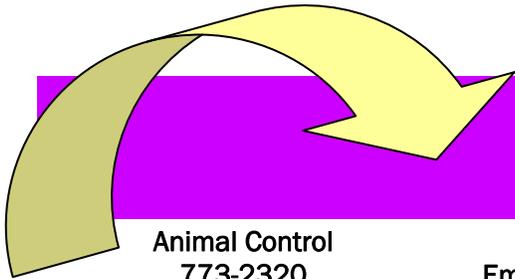


Jeff Ussery, Supervisor of Elections

tions, the elector in need of a replacement voter information card, the first time registrant wishing to cast their first vote, to the political candidate or parties in need of information, receives their request in a timely and courteous manner.

It is the consensus of this office to continue to push ever forward in the technological field to ensure that our county continues to stay on top of the ever changing needs presented to the electoral process and better serve you, our community.

***Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser,  
Clerk of the Court, and Supervisor of Elections***



# County Directory

Animal Control 773-2320	Fire Rescue/ Emergency Medical Services 773-4362	Property Appraiser 773-2196
Animal Refuge 735-9531	Guardian Ad Litem 773-2505	Public Defender 773-6758
Building & Code Enforcement 773-3236	Hardee Lakes Park 781-2594	Purchasing 773-5014
Central Dispatch 773-4144	Health Department 773-4161	Road & Bridge 773-3272
Civic Center 773-6698	Human Resources 773-2161	Security 773-0385
Clerk of the Court 773-4174	Mining 773-0136	Sheriff 773-0304
Community Development 773-6349	Information Technology 767-9655	Soil Conservation 773-9644
County Commissioners 773-9430	Landfill 773-5089	State Attorney 773-6613
County Extension 773-2164	Library 773-6438	State Probation 773-4777
County Probation 773-9323	Maintenance Shop 773-6430	Supervisor of Elections 773-6061
Cracker Trail Museum 735-0119	Office of Management & Budget 773-3199	Tax Collector 773-9144
E911 773-0222	Pioneer Park 735-0330	Utilities 781-4431
Emergency Management 773-6373	Planning & Development 767-1964	Veteran's Office 773-9853
Facilities Management 773-3419		

## Hardee County



# Hardee County

## 2005-2006

# Annual Report



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Hardee County Board of County Commissioners