

IT'S YOUR MONEY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR COUNTY AUDITOR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"A Community Acting to Make Itself Ready to Accommodate the Retention, Startup, Location, or Expansion of an Enterprise"



CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Special points of interest:

- Economic Development
- General Fund Revenues vs Expenditures
- 2007 1st Half Real Estate Tax Distributions

Inside this issue:

General Operating Revenues	2
General Fund Budget vs Actual	3
2007 1st Half Real Estate Distributions	4

DEDICATED TO SERVING CRAWFORD COUNTY WITH ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Overview

Crawford County's economic development initiative received a big boost in February when the Crawford County Commissioners created an Office of Economic Development and Planning and hired the Governor's former regional representative for economic development, Dave Williamson, to help develop and oversee the county-wide economic development program.

By combining the Economic Development Office and the Regional Planning Office, the County Commissioners are able to assure that county resources are efficiently used and that county economic development is coordinated with the state and other local governments.

Background

The organized economic development initiative actually began with a study made by the Regional Planning Commission, which determined that the best way to address the declining economic status in the County was to form a partnership between the private sector and government.

In response to the Regional Planning Commission's recommendation, a group of business and government leaders formed the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to coordinate and promote economic growth and development in Crawford County.

The Economic Development Corporation has signed an

agreement with the Crawford County Commissioners whereby the Corporation agreed to provide assistance to the Commissioners by directing local economic development activities and providing the day-to-day oversight of the program. The County Commissioners in turn agreed to financially subsidize the operations of this new office for a period of two years.

Goals and Objectives

Some of the economic development goals and objectives that have been identified by the public/private collaboration are:

- Prepare a 3 year strategic plan for economic development in Crawford County.
- Undertake marketing activities to retain and attract new business to the County.
- Develop a systematic business retention and expansion plan.
- Work to stimulate and expand high growth entrepreneurial development in the County.
- Act as a source for workforce development that will meet business and industry's needs.

Why Does the County Need an Organized Economic Development Effort?

Every significant trend shows the County does not have the population or the financial resources to successfully develop our community's

economy without support from the entire region - both private and public.

Some of the more significant trends that got the attention of business and government leaders are:

- Crawford County's population has been declining over the past thirty-plus years from our high-point in 1970 and is predicted to decrease an additional 6 percent over the next 20 years.
- Migration patterns measure the number of people moving out or into a county. Since 1992, Crawford County has had more people leaving the county than coming into the county.
- In contrast to the declining population, an increase in the number of public assistance recipients has been realized, signaling an increasing dependence on government and a lack of vitality in the local economy.
- Since 1982, Crawford County has exceeded the State and National averages in unemployment trends.
- Crawford County's per capita income is about 77% of the U.S. average.
- More than 7,000 workers each day commute to work outside the County as compared to some 4,000 workers who commute each day into the County.

ON THE YEAR; GENERAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CASH

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County. It is used to account for resources traditionally associated with governments which are not required legally or by sound financial management to be accounted for in a separate fund. There is only one General Fund of the County as contrasted with multiple special revenue, debt service, capital projects, fiduciary and proprietary funds.

Actual operating revenues of the General Revenue Fund for the first three months of 2007 were \$2,570,801.86 or 30.99% of the \$8,294,769.56 estimated by the County Budget Commission in January. Operating revenues collected for the same period last year were \$2,516,813.90. The \$53,987.96 increase in operating revenue for 2007 is for the most part, the net result of an increase in property tax revenue and interest revenue which was offset by decreases in charges for services revenue.

On the year, sales tax revenue is virtually unchanged, with only \$253.46 difference between the first quarter of 2006 and the first quarter 2007.

First quarter operating expenditures totaled \$2,660,615.75 or 23.93% of the \$11,119,007.54 appropriated. Operating expenditures for the same period last year totaled \$2,867,986.28, indicating a decrease in expenditures of \$207,370.53. The decrease in expenditures can be attributed in large part due to timing differences of when certain grants were paid.

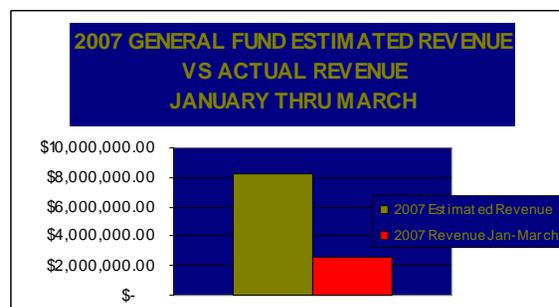
For the first quarter of 2007, General Fund operating expenditures exceeded operating revenues by \$89,813.89. For the first quarter of 2006, General Fund operating expenditures exceeded operating revenues by \$351,172.38. However, consideration must be made for the fact that certain grants for 2007, that are normally paid in the first quarter, have yet to be paid.

When comparing actual revenues and expenditures, advances made to other funds or received as a repayment are not considered as operating revenues and expenditures because these items only affect cash flow. Thus, in order to accurately reflect operating revenues and expenditures these loans have been removed from the totals and the financial data presented in this newsletter.

The cash balance of the General Fund at March 31, 2007 was \$2,731,521.11 as compared to \$3,530,783.75 at March 31, 2006. The decrease in cash position can be attributed to the fact that operating expenditures continue to exceed operating revenues; a trend that has been in place since 2000. The cash balance at March 31, 2007 also includes the \$2,000,000 that was transferred from the capital projects fund to the General Fund in 2004 to replenish operating cash that had been used previously for construction purposes. As annual operating costs continue to exceed revenue collections, cash reserves will eventually be depleted.

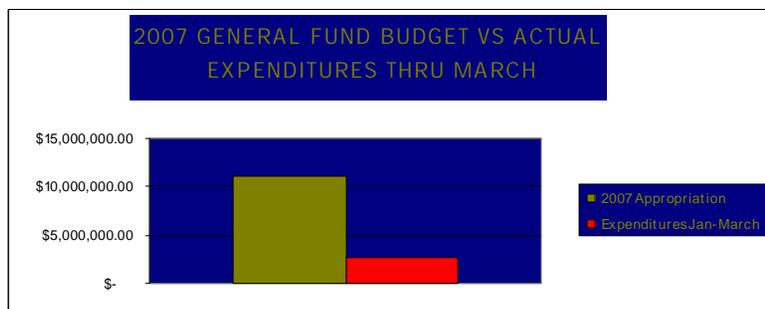
2007 GENERAL FUND BUDGET VS ACTUAL REVENUES

	2007 ESTIMATED REVENUE	2007 ACTUAL REVENUE JANUARY-MARCH	PERCENT COLLECTED
PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 1,375,000.00	\$ 703,499.59	51.16%
SALES TAXES	\$ 3,150,000.00	\$ 834,449.56	26.49%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$ 1,631,550.00	\$ 499,383.23	30.61%
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$ 3,410.00	\$ 808.50	23.71%
FINES AND FORFEITURES	\$ 148,000.00	\$ 46,639.51	31.51%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$ 1,439,178.00	\$ 378,208.11	26.28%
INTEREST	\$ 425,000.00	\$ 73,119.16	17.20%
OTHER	\$ 122,631.56	\$ 34,694.20	28.29%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 8,294,769.56	\$ 2,570,801.86	30.99%
ADVANCE REPAYMENT		\$ -	
TRANSFERS-IN		\$ -	



2007 GENERAL FUND BUDGET VS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

	2007 <u>Appropriation</u>	Expenditures <u>Jan-March</u>	Unexpended <u>Balance</u>	Percent <u>Expended</u>
General Fund Operating Expenditures and Transfers	\$ 11,119,007.54	\$ 2,660,615.75	\$ 8,458,391.79	23.93%
Department Breakdown				
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	\$ 355,849.34	\$ 89,926.77	\$ 265,922.57	25.27%
COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 376,050.00	\$ 79,524.02	\$ 296,525.98	21.15%
COUNTY TREASURER	\$ 130,351.46	\$ 32,161.96	\$ 98,189.50	24.67%
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	\$ 545,843.30	\$ 147,881.65	\$ 397,961.65	27.09%
BUDGET COMMISSION	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.00%
BOARD OF REVISION	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.00%
BUREAU OF EXAMINATION	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 24,010.82	\$ 43,989.18	35.31%
COUNTY PLANNING	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	28.57%
DATA PROCESSING	\$ 115,494.99	\$ 31,643.73	\$ 83,851.26	27.40%
COURT OF APPEALS	\$ 33,707.33	\$ 15,348.02	\$ 18,359.31	45.53%
COMMON PLEAS	\$ 686,272.56	\$ 134,733.25	\$ 551,539.31	19.63%
JUVENILE COURT	\$ 869,273.94	\$ 170,651.66	\$ 698,622.28	19.63%
PROBATE COURT	\$ 130,416.21	\$ 31,359.44	\$ 99,056.77	24.05%
CLERK OF COURTS	\$ 264,816.00	\$ 62,424.57	\$ 202,391.43	23.57%
CORONER	\$ 135,714.16	\$ 27,379.44	\$ 108,334.72	20.17%
MUNICIPAL COURT	\$ 505,231.62	\$ 116,133.21	\$ 389,098.41	22.99%
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	\$ 352,026.35	\$ 68,526.92	\$ 283,499.43	19.47%
CT HOUSE ADMIN/COMMISSIONERS	\$ 799,574.79	\$ 214,043.99	\$ 585,530.80	26.77%
SHERIFF ROAD PATROL ONLY	\$ 2,216,214.79	\$ 457,856.97	\$ 1,758,357.82	20.66%
COUNTY RECORDER	\$ 198,243.30	\$ 42,611.97	\$ 155,631.33	21.49%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	0.00%
AGRICULTURE	\$ 305,801.66	\$ 146,443.75	\$ 159,357.91	47.89%
T.B. HOSPITAL	\$ 610.00	\$ -	\$ 610.00	0.00%
VITAL STATISTICS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.00%
OTHER HEALTH	\$ 79,431.53	\$ 18,163.35	\$ 61,268.18	22.87%
VETERANS SERVICES	\$ 393,969.99	\$ 80,741.65	\$ 313,228.34	20.49%
PUBLIC ASST - GRANT	\$ 275,252.00	\$ 47,500.03	\$ 227,751.97	17.26%
CHILD WELFARE GRANT	\$ 215,000.00	\$ -	\$ 215,000.00	0.00%
VICTIMS OF CRIME GRANT	\$ 11,929.00	\$ -	\$ 11,929.00	0.00%
SANITARY ENGINEER	\$ 38,111.00	\$ 8,266.56	\$ 29,844.44	21.69%
COUNTY ENGINEER	\$ 139,277.30	\$ 26,849.45	\$ 112,427.85	19.28%
LAW LIBRARY	\$ 44,581.32	\$ 11,235.89	\$ 33,345.43	25.20%
LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 385,500.00	\$ 671.00	\$ 384,829.00	0.17%
TRANSFERS/MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 1,329,463.60	\$ 564,525.68	\$ 764,937.92	42.46%
TOTAL OPERATING EXP/TRANSFERS	\$ 11,119,007.54	\$ 2,660,615.75	\$ 8,458,391.79	23.93%
LOANS TO OTHER FUNDS	\$ -	\$ 63,370.06	\$ -	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND LOANS	\$ -	\$ 2,723,985.81	\$ -	-



The 2007 appropriation includes all encumbrances carried forward from 2006 and any adjustments to the budget approved by the County Commissioners on January 1, 2007. 2006 encumbrances total \$116,388.49.

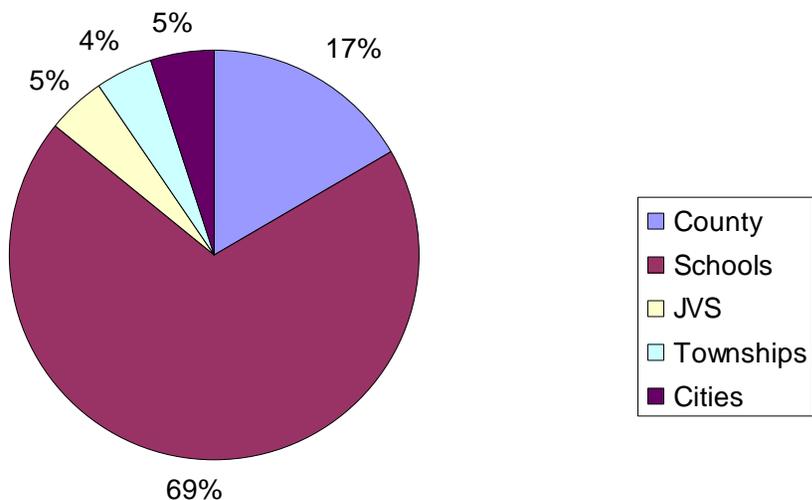
2007 REAL ESTATE TAX DISTRIBUTIONS

Ohio law requires the County Auditor to distribute many types of taxes collected by the County Treasurer. The two major types of property taxes are real estate and tangible personal. Shown below is the distribution of real estate taxes for first half 2007. Personal Property distributions are made in May and October each year, so these distributions will be reflected in future quarterly reports. Real estate taxes are collected based on current tax rates applied to the taxable valuations assessed as of January 1, 2006.

2007 1st Half Real Estate Collections
Tax Year 2006/Payable 2007

<u>District</u>	<u>1st Half 2007 Real Estate Collections</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
County	\$ 2,477,441.51	16.55%
Schools	\$ 10,362,700.60	69.22%
JVS	\$ 735,755.64	4.91%
Townships	\$ 628,731.18	4.20%
Cities	\$ 766,938.05	5.12%
TOTAL	\$ 14,971,566.98	100.00%

TY 2006 Real Estate Collections

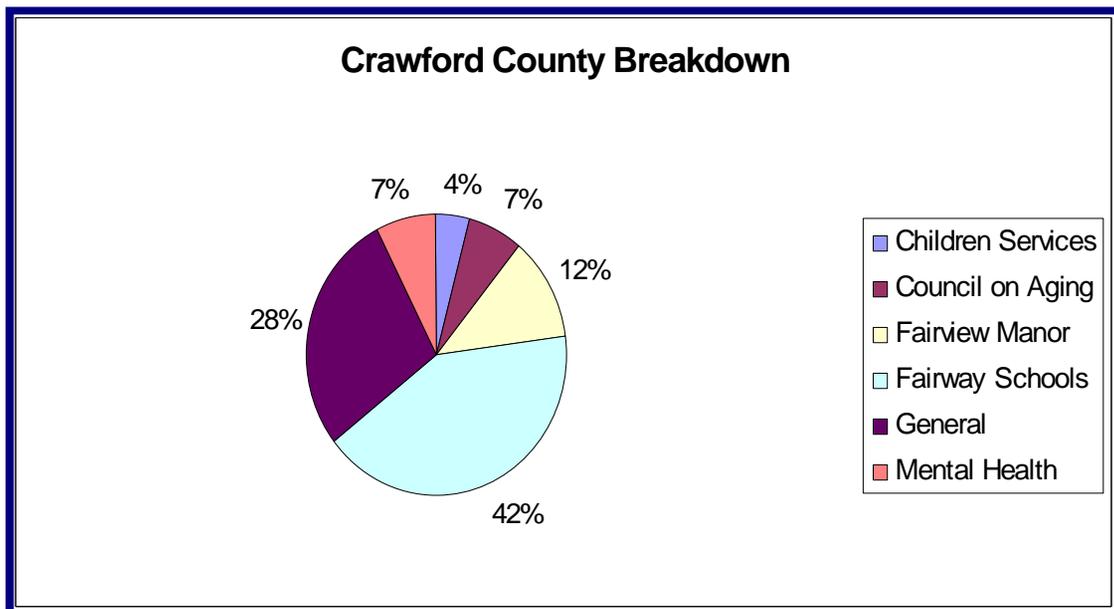


2007 REAL ESTATE TAX DISTRIBUTIONS, continued

The following table and graph illustrate how Crawford County's portion of your tax bill is utilized. The following tax levies have been approved by the voters with the exception of the General Fund which represents your proportional share of the cost of operating local government. Ohio law limits the amount of taxation without the vote of the people. Each political subdivision such as a school district, township, village, city and county are allocated millage, not to exceed 10 collectively, for general operating purposes.

2007 1st Half Real Estate Collections
Tax Year 2006/Payable 2007
Crawford County Breakdown

<u>District</u>	<u>1st Half 2007 Real Estate Collections</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Children Services	\$ 103,790.14	4.19%
Council on Aging	\$ 174,920.38	7.06%
Fairview Manor	\$ 291,533.97	11.77%
Fairway Schools	\$ 1,020,369.00	41.19%
General	\$ 701,767.48	28.33%
Mental Health	\$ 185,060.54	7.47%
TOTAL	\$ 2,477,441.51	100.00%



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR COUNTY AUDITOR

Robin Hildebrand, County Auditor
112 E. Mansfield Street
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820
Phone: 419-562-7941
Fax: 419-562-2139 Email: robinh@crawford-co.org

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1, 2007 - Monthly financial statements filed with County Commissioners.

April 30, 2007 - Last day to file or request extension of tangible personal property tax forms.

May 1, 2007 - Monthly financial statements filed with County Commissioners.

May 15, 2007 or about - County Auditor required to make tangible personal property tax distributions to schools, townships, villages and cities.

May 30, 2007 - Annual financial statements filed with State Auditor.

June 1, 2007 - Monthly financial statements filed with County Commissioners.

June 4, 2007 - Last day to file homestead and 2 1/2 percent rollback tax credit forms with County Auditor.

June 15, 2007 - Last day to file tangible personal property tax return if extension granted.

June 20, 2007 - Last day to pay 2nd half real estate taxes without penalty.

ABOUT YOUR COUNTY

With 11 employees, the County Auditor serves as both the Chief Financial Officer and the Real Property Assessor for all political subdivisions within the County. It is the goal of this office to provide the citizens of Crawford County with the most cost effective and efficient office possible while never forgetting the people we serve. In addition to the County Auditor, there are seven elected administrative officials and three judges who operate independently as set forth by Ohio law. These officials are: Clerk of Courts, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, two Common Pleas Judges and a Municipal County Judge. All of these officials serve four-year terms except for the judges, who serve six-year terms. The County was formed by an act of the General Assembly on April 1, 1826 and includes 400 square miles and has an estimated population of 46,966.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, continued from page 1

Summary

The county faces significant challenges, especially in the manufacturing sector. Many of these challenges are a result of globalization, changes in technology and workforce issues. Most of this has been a long time coming and are not short term developments. The county cannot afford to spend four or five more years figuring out how to address our economic development issues. Individual communities and local governments cannot financially afford to go-it-alone any longer. That's where the collaboration of this county-wide effort becomes so important.

What Can You Do?

It's simple: Join us!

- If you are a business, contact the Office of Economic Development and Planning to become a member of the Economic Development Partnership.
- If you belong to a service organization or club, get that organization to go on record supporting the economic development initiative. The more organizations that go on record supporting this economic development initiative, the greater opportunity for success.
- Volunteer to become involved in the economic development initiative and endorse the notion that we must work together to improve our local economy and our community.

As partners we can work together to revitalize our local economy, because as Joel Arthur Barker said, "Vision without action is merely a dream; action without vision just passes the time; vision with action can change the world."

To learn more about the county-wide economic development initiative or to provide a letter of support, please contact Dave Williamson at 419-563-1809 or via e-mail at teamcrawford@crawford-co.org.