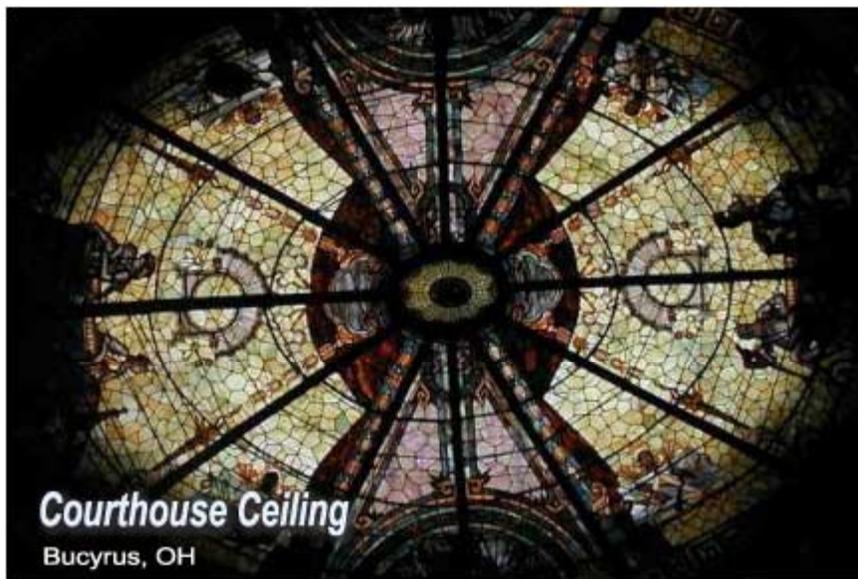


Crawford County 2004

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT



Issued by Robin E. Hildebrand
Crawford County Auditor

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ABOUT THE COVER

The photo on the cover is the Crawford County Courthouse ceiling located in the Common Pleas courtroom.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to recognize my staff for their continued dedication and support and Robyn Sheets who prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). I would also like to thank the current Board of County Commissioners, Carl Watt, Moshen Ressallat, and Ronald Hoeft for their cooperation and financial support, all of which made this report possible.

Citizens of Crawford County

As Chief Financial Officer of Crawford County, Ohio, I am pleased to present the 2004 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This report provides a concise summary of the financial condition and activities of Crawford County for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Popular Annual Financial Report is prepared for business and residential taxpayers that help provide the financial support to Crawford County.

Since the Popular Annual Financial Report condenses and simplifies our 2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (which is over 180 pages long), it does not conform to established generally accepted accounting principles and governmental reporting standards.

Crawford County's 2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has been audited by the State Auditor's Office and conforms to generally accepted accounting principles.

Since 1989, our comprehensive annual financial reports have received the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The Popular Annual Financial Report of Crawford County is presented to the citizens of Crawford County to increase public confidence in County government and its elected officials by reporting financial information in a format understandable to the general public.

As you review this year's report, please don't hesitate to share any comments or suggestions you may have about Crawford County. If further detail is desired, please contact my office for a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Sincerely,



Robin E. Hildebrand
County Auditor

Crawford County Elected Officials

A Brief History Of Crawford County

The County was formed by an act of the General Assembly on April 1, 1826. Located approximately sixty miles from the state capital of Columbus, the County encompasses three municipalities, four villages, and sixteen townships. The central part of the County is comprised largely of the three municipalities, Bucyrus (which is the County seat), Crestline, and Galion. The remaining areas of the County are semi-rural to rural. The county includes 400 square miles and has an estimated population of 46,966. The elected three member Board of County Commissioners serves as the taxing authority and the contracting authority for the County. Each Commissioner serves a term of four years. In addition to the County Auditor, who serves as Chief Fiscal Officer, 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.

ADMINISTRATORS

ROBIN E. HILDEBRAND
AUDITOR

RUTH MCKIBBEN VOLK
RECORDER

SUE SEEVERS
CLERK OF COURTS

RONNY J. SHAWBER
SHERIFF

MICHAEL JOHNSON
CORONER

GARY COLE
TREASURER

MOSHEN RESSALLAT (PRESIDENT)
COMMISSIONER

GERALD W. RIEDEL
ENGINEER

CARL WATT
COMMISSIONER

STANLEY E. FLEGM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

RONALD HOEFT
COMMISSIONER

JUDGES

RUSSELL WISEMAN
COMMON PLEAS COURT

JAMES HOOVER
MUNICIPAL COURT

STEVEN D. ECKSTEIN
PROBATE/JUVENILE

The County at A Glance

ECONOMIC CONDITION

Crawford County's unemployment rate decreased in 2004. The unemployment rate for the County was 7.7 percent, which decreased from a rate of 8.2 percent a year ago. This rate exceeds the State's average unemployment rate of 6.1 percent and the national average of 5.5 percent. Although decreasing from rates realized in recent years, the County's unemployment rate demonstrates the County's dependency on manufacturing and agriculture industries that have suffered with the national recession.

THE LOCAL ECONOMY

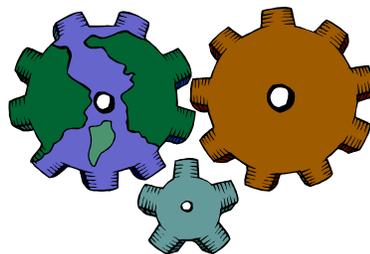
Crawford County is home to a mix of industry and agribusiness. Local industrial firms make products for heavy industry, home, recreation and business. Timken, Dayco Swan and General Electric contribute to the County's industrial setting. The County developed a commercial and industrial park, in conjunction with citizen support, known as Crossroads Industrial Park. This park has attracted three employers, two of which are manufacturers of auto parts for Honda and one is a distribution center for Arctic Cat, a maker of snowmobiles and jetskis. Durable manufacturing dominates the local economy. A newly expanded four-lane section of US 30 was opened in Crawford County westbound from Bucyrus in 2004. In 2005, the new eastbound four-lane section of US 30 will be opened. This expansion will improve safety and mobility and potentially attract new industrial development. About 90 percent of the land area in the County is agricultural land, and characteristic of agricultural areas.

There are several companies that have been able to consider expansions during this difficult economic cycle.

Country Star Co-op, a grain and farm supplier for local farmers, developed and completed a state-of-the-art, high speed grain loading and distribution facility in 2004. The total investment for this expansion was \$3.6 million and it created three full-time jobs.

Covert Manufacturing, Inc., a pattern making and production machining company, is in the process of upgrading existing equipment and installing additional equipment to break into new anticipated markets. The project will involve a total investment of \$3 million and all acquisition, construction and installation will be completed by 2007.

The Mennel Milling Company, a wheat flour mill, started construction of a concrete slip form to expand its existing facility. Anticipated completion of the \$7.5 million project is December 2005.



The County's Major Initiatives

FOR THE YEAR

County Commissioners have been responsible for various building projects over the last several years. By year end, the County completed renovations to the existing courthouse that is used for the three court systems. These renovations included updates to mechanical and electrical systems, replacement of windows, and repairs to the exterior of the facility. Additional space for the court systems was provided. The cost of these renovations was \$4 million.

In May 2004, the County Commissioners entered into a management agreement with Santek Environmental to manage the Sanitary Landfill facility. This agreement states that Santek Environmental will assume all future construction costs of future cells. It further states that the County be paid a monthly royalty fee and annual equipment lease fees. Under this agreement, the County retains ownership and responsibility for setting rates for the disposal of solid waste at the facility. In addition, Santek Environmental anticipates expanding the market area for the Sanitary Landfill facility. The County has submitted a proposal for a permit to allow a separate site for construction and demolition debris. This site is being considered on a closed portion of the landfill which will allow the facility to have a longer useful life.

Currently, the Crawford County Emergency Management Agency is updating communication equipment and emergency support equipment. This is being done through grants received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In 2004, the County Auditor completed development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to provide digitized mapping services, including tax maps and orthophotos for the County. Information from this system is made available to other governmental agencies and the general public via the Internet.

Additionally, funding was obtained in 2004 from federal grant funds and the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) for development of a County Location Based Response System (LBRS). This will eventually become a subsystem of a state-wide LBRS which will be used at all levels of government. The Crawford County Emergency Management Agency is one agency that will now be able to incorporate GIS into emergency services to aid in locating an emergency site.

FOR THE FUTURE

Efforts continue at the County Jail to secure out-of-county inmates to help subsidize the cost of operating the local jail. Currently, a performance audit is being done on the jail to identify areas on which to save money and to help with future planning issues.

The County Commissioners completed a feasibility study to expand the current rural water system to include areas in the northeast part of the County. Anticipated funding in 2005 consists of rural development grants, loans and tap-in fees from residents. There are potentially four hundred fourteen new customers with this expansion, which will include approximately twenty miles of water line.

The County Commissioners also completed a feasibility study to provide a centralized sewer system for the Sugar Grove area of Whetstone Township. Currently, this area does not have an existing centralized sewer system and individual systems are either non-existent or failing. The project has been approved, and partial funding in the form of grants has been received. Anticipated completion of the project is September 2005.

Financial Activity Statement

SUMMARY

The Financial Activity Statement, known in accounting terms as the "Income Statement," provides a record of the money received and spent during the year. Explanations of specific Resources and Services are provided on the next three pages.

ACTIVITY STATEMENT GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

<u>Resources</u>	
Property Taxes	\$ 4,382,951
Sales Taxes	5,028,685
Special Assessments	109,080
Charges for Services	5,746,967
Licenses and Permits	12,540
Fines and Forfeitures	284,082
Intergovernmental	13,520,913
Interest	335,053
Rent	18,789
Other	<u>974,811</u>
Total Resources	<u>\$30,413,871</u>
<u>Services Provided</u>	
Legislative and Executive	\$ 3,581,420
Judicial	2,152,575
Public Safety	5,298,771
Public Works	4,255,307
Health	4,637,611
Human Services	10,686,566
Capital Outlay	575,624
Intergovernmental	470,586
Debt/Principal Retirement	380,000
Debt/Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>500,469</u>
Total Services Provided	<u>\$32,538,929</u>
Resources (Under) Services Provided	<u>(\$ 2,125,058)</u>

Readers of the Financial Activity Statement should keep in mind that the statement is presented on a non-GAAP basis, and those desiring to review GAAP basis reports should refer to the County's 2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

RESOURCES

Resources are defined as monies received by the County, from a variety of different sources, used to pay for the services the County provides.

Property Taxes include Real Estate Tax, Personal Property Tax and a variety of smaller taxes.

Sales Taxes represents monies received from the County's one percent tax on retail sales. This category also includes the sales tax approved for the construction and operation of a new County jail. The portion of the sales tax that must be used for the jail is kept in a separate fund.

Special Assessments are the revenues received from the various assessments levied against real property owners for improvements such as ditch maintenance or lighting.

Charges for Services represents the fees charged to the public for services provided by the various County departments and agencies.

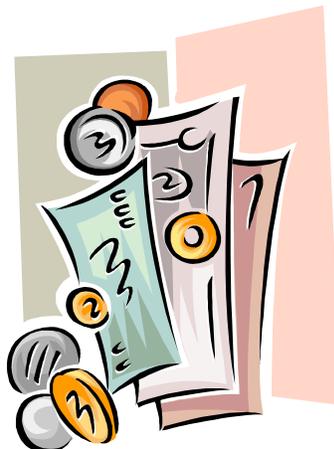
Licenses and Permits are the revenues derived from selling these items.

Fines and Forfeitures are the resources received from Court levied fines and proceeds from properties forfeited to the County.

Intergovernmental Revenues are grant monies received from the state and federal government.

Interest is the County's earnings on investments made by the County Treasurer.

Rent represents money received for the use of County office space. Included in this category is money received from the State of Ohio, Department of Job and Family Services for the use of the Job and Family Services building.



SERVICES PROVIDED

Services provided are categorized by program and represent the County's expenditures. Listed below are the individual County departments and functions that comprise the County programs.

General Government

Legislative and Executive

- *County Auditor*
- * Accounting
- * Payroll/Personnel Records
- * Appraising and Real Estate
- * Personal Property
- * Dog, Vendor, Cigarette and Junk Yard Licensing
- * Weights and Measures
- * Estate Tax
- * Data Center
- *County Treasurer*
- *County Recorder*
- *Board of Elections*
- *County Prosecuting Attorney*
- *Board of County Commissioners*

Judicial

- *Common Pleas Court*
- * General
- * Juvenile
- * Probate
- *Court of Appeals*
- *County Municipal Court*

Public Safety

- *County Sheriff*
- *Adult and Juvenile Probation*
- *Coroner*
- *Emergency Management*

Public Works

- *County Engineer*

Health

- *Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (Fairway School)*
- *Dog and Kennel*
- *Solid Waste Management District*

Human Services

- *Job and Family Services*
- *Child Support*
- *Children Services*
- *Veterans Services*
- *County Home*
- *Council on Aging*

Intergovernmental

- *Mental Health Board*

General Points of Interest

Revenue Changes

The following schedule presents a summary of all governmental funds' revenues for the year ended December 31, 2004, and the amount of increases and decreases in relation to prior year revenues:

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>2004 Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) From 2003</u>
Property Taxes	4,382,951	14.41	163,250
Sales Taxes	5,028,685	16.53	198,406
Special Assessments	109,080	.36	14,234
Charges for Services	5,746,967	18.90	522,798
Licenses and Permits	12,540	.04	7,331
Fines and Forfeitures	284,082	.93	15,449
Intergovernmental	13,520,913	44.46	(518,649)
Interest	335,053	1.10	(358,763)
Rent	18,789	.06	1,445
Other	<u>974,811</u>	<u>3.21</u>	<u>(239,504)</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$30,413,871</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>(\$194,003)</u>

The decrease in interest revenue is attributable to lower interest rates and the county investing fewer dollars. The increase in charges for services is a result of increased conveyance fees, fines and court costs, services rendered to other governments by the County Engineer and services provided to other departments by Job and Family Services. Intergovernmental revenue decreased as a result of a decrease in operating grant revenues for community development and job and family services.

Expenditure Changes

The following schedule presents a summary of all governmental funds' expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2004, and the percentage of increases and decreases in relation to the prior year.

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>2004 Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) From 2003</u>
Current:			
General Government			
Legislative and Executive	3,581,420	11.01	42,228
Judicial	2,152,575	6.62	(133,220)
Public Safety	5,298,771	16.28	82,294
Public Works	4,255,307	13.08	318,060
Health	4,637,611	14.25	(96,969)
Human Services	10,686,566	32.84	738,451
Capital Outlay	575,624	1.77	(1,934,877)
Intergovernmental	470,586	1.44	(8,448)
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	380,000	1.17	(3,373)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>500,469</u>	<u>1.54</u>	<u>(9,718)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$32,538,929</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>(\$1,005,572)</u>

Points of Interest, Continued

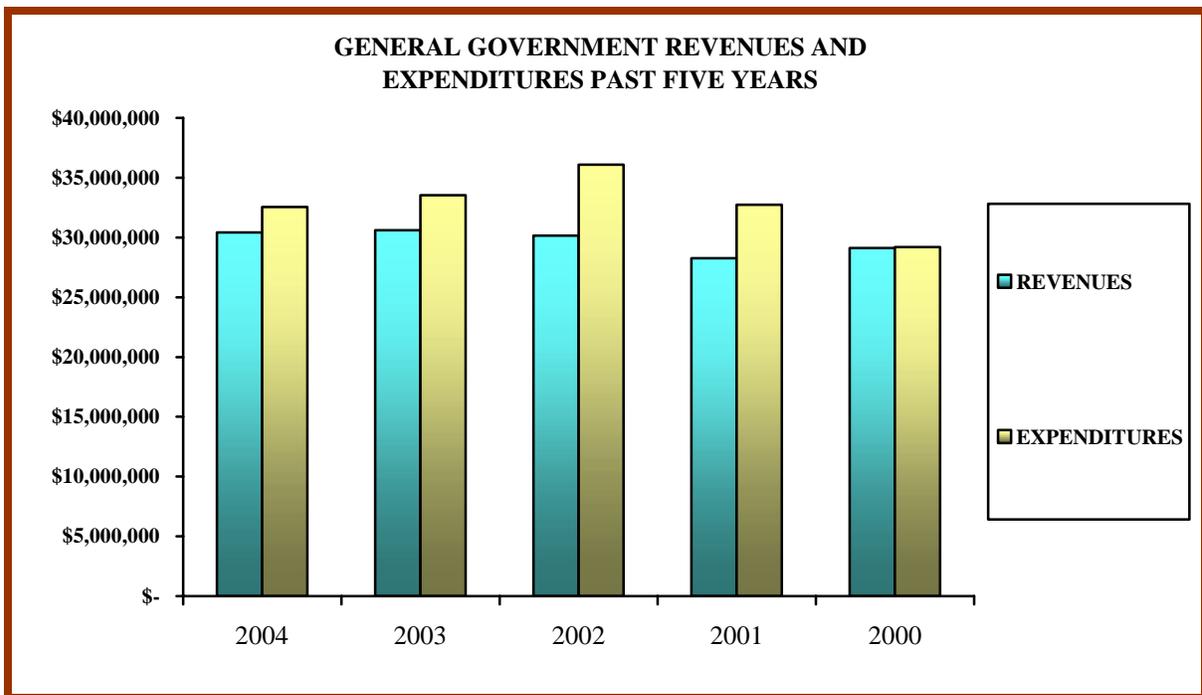
The most significant changes in expenditures during 2004 were those for public works, human services and capital outlay.

The increase in public works is a result of the County completing community development projects and expenditures related to a grant received from the State of Ohio for the development of a Location Based Response System (LBRS).

The increase in human services is partially attributable to re-designating the Children Services Agency to Job and Family Services in 2004.

The decrease in capital outlay is a result of the County completing renovations to the courthouse.

The following table shows the trend in general government revenues and expenditures over the past five years.



Financial Position Statement

The Financial Position Statement is commonly referred to as the “Balance Sheet” in accounting terms. This statement provides a picture of the County’s financial position at the end of the year. Explanations of specific accounts follow:

FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

<u>Financial Benefits</u>	
Cash and Investments	\$11,838,604
Receivables	11,395,941
Capital Assets	41,715,169
Other Assets	<u>406,648</u>
Total Financial Benefits	<u>\$65,356,362</u>
<u>Financial Burdens</u>	
Amounts Owed to Employees and Vendors	\$1,476,820
Deferred Revenue	4,789,597
Short Term Debt	3,385,779
Long Term Debt	11,040,593
Other Financial Burdens	<u>175,938</u>
Total Financial Burdens	<u>\$20,868,727</u>
Total Financial Benefits over Financial Burdens	<u>\$44,487,635</u>

***Benefits Over Burdens**
This amount represents the
difference between the
financial benefits of the
County and the burdens that it
must pay. The amount provides
the net worth of the County.*

Readers of the Financial Position Statement should keep in mind that the statement is presented on a non-GAAP basis, and those desiring to review GAAP basis reports should refer to the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2004.

Financial Benefits

Cash represents money held by the county in checking accounts and on hand to pay expenses.

Investments represents funds that are not needed to pay current expenses and are invested in securities that earn interest for the County.

Receivables represents money that is owed to the county.

Capital Assets represents land, buildings, vehicles, furniture, and equipment that provide an economic benefit for more than a year.

Financial Burdens

Amounts Owed to Employees and Vendors represents money that the County owes to individuals and companies that supply the County with goods and services.

Deferred Revenue represents resource inflows that have not yet been received.

Short Term Debt represents money the County has borrowed and must be repaid within one year.

Long Term Debt represents the amount of bonds and loans the County has issued that will be paid over a period greater than one year.

Total Financial Benefits over Financial Burdens represents the net worth of the County.

Business Type Activities

OPERATING REVENUES

For business type activities, operating revenues represent the fees charged for provided services at the Sanitary Landfill and the Sewer District. At the landfill, this represents dumping fees and at the Sewer District, this represents water and sewer fees.

OPERATING EXPENSES

For business type activities, operating expenses represent the cost of doing business. These expenses include an additional cost, which doesn't require a cash payment but does represent costs to the operation. This additional cost is for depreciation.

- **Depreciation** represents the allocation of costs for the construction of the Landfill and the equipment used to operate the Landfill. These costs are spread over the life of the facility or the life of the equipment.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Special items are considered significant transactions or other events within the control of management that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Special items include a gain on a landfill management agreement that represents closure and postclosure care costs.

- **Closure and postclosure care costs** represents the allocation of anticipated costs for mandatory monitoring of the Landfill after the facility is closed. The monitoring is an EPA requirement, and these costs need to be recovered while the Landfill is in operation. Prior to the management agreement with Santek Environmental, the County reported a portion of the closure and postclosure care costs as an operating expense in each period based on landfill capacity used as of each balance sheet date. At December 31, 2003, the County reported a liability of \$2,462,758 for closure and postclosure care. For 2004, this liability has been removed and a gain due to a management agreement has been reported on the activity statement.

NET ASSETS

For business type activities, net assets reflect the accumulated earnings of the Sanitary Landfill from when the facility began operations through December 31, 2004.

ACTIVITY STATEMENT BUSINESS TYPE ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

<u>Operating Revenues</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Sanitary Landfill</u>
Charges for Services	\$154,317	\$2,195,801
Other	0	111,896
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$154,317</u>	<u>\$2,307,697</u>
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Personal Services	\$18,189	\$142,355
Materials and Supplies	3,595	59,882
Contractual Services	49,157	716,096
Depreciation	44,358	406,887
Other	6,326	110,156
Total Operating Expenses	<u>121,625</u>	<u>1,435,376</u>
Operating Income	<u>\$32,692</u>	<u>\$872,321</u>
<u>Non-Operating Expenses</u>		
Interest Expense	38,126	268,074
(Loss) Before Special Items and Transfers	(5,434)	604,247
Gain on Landfill Operating Agreement	0	2,462,758
Transfers In	0	447
Change in Net Assets	(5,434)	3,067,452
Net Assets (Deficit) Beginning of Year	<u>805,288</u>	<u>(6,317,413)</u>
Net Assets (Deficit) End of Year	<u>\$799,854</u>	<u>(\$3,249,961)</u>

Business Type Points of Interest

Sanitary Landfill

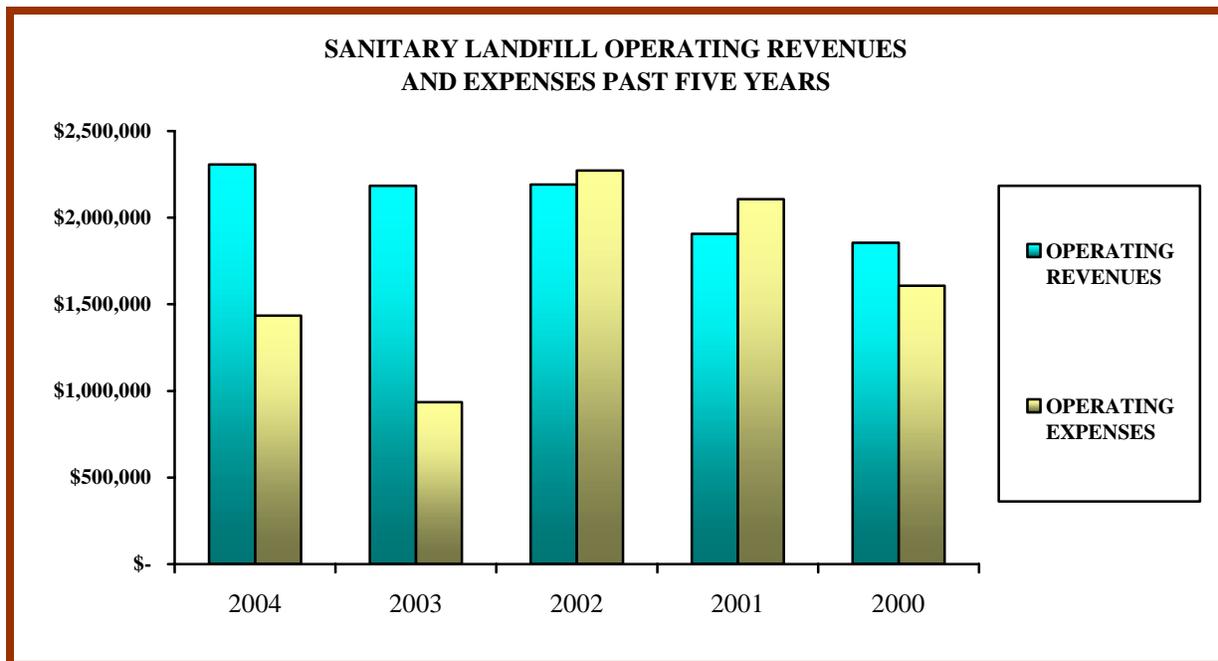
As indicated on the previous page, revenue at the Sanitary Landfill comes from fees charged for dumping waste. The Sanitary Landfill Fund has posted operating deficits for several years. On May 17, 2004, the County Commissioners entered into an operating agreement with Santek Environmental to manage the Sanitary Landfill facility. Under the agreement, Santek Environmental will pay monthly royalty fees to the County. These fees will be used for debt retirement for the Landfill. Santek will assume all future construction costs of landfill cells and costs associated with closure of the facility. Santek will also pay the County equipment lease fees. The agreement allows the County to retain ownership and responsibility for setting rates. Lastly, Santek Environmental anticipates an expanded market area for the Sanitary Landfill.

Since the County has outstanding debt, flow control of waste generated within the County is controlled by federal mandate that requires all waste to be disposed at the local facility. This mandate is extended to Santek Environmental as long as the County has tax-supported debt outstanding.

Sewer District

The County provides water and sewer services to approximately one hundred twenty customers. Water is being provided to these customers through a water line constructed from the City of Bucyrus to the Village of North Robinson. Construction costs were paid from the users of the water line and from a grant received by the County. For 2004, expenses for water and sewer services exceeded revenues by \$5,434. The rates computed for this service do not include the cost associated with the aging of the capital assets.

The following table reflects operating revenues and expenses for the Sanitary Landfill, exclusive of debt service obligations, for the past five years.



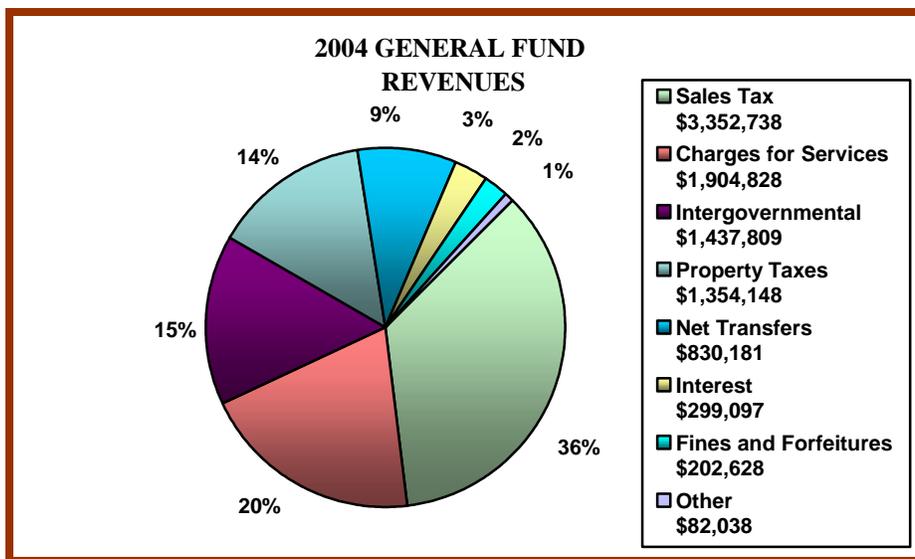
The General Fund

Summary

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 another fund. There is only **one General Fund** of the County as contrasted with the County's multiple special revenue, debt service, capital projects, fiduciary and proprietary funds. The following is a breakdown of the major components of the County's General Fund.

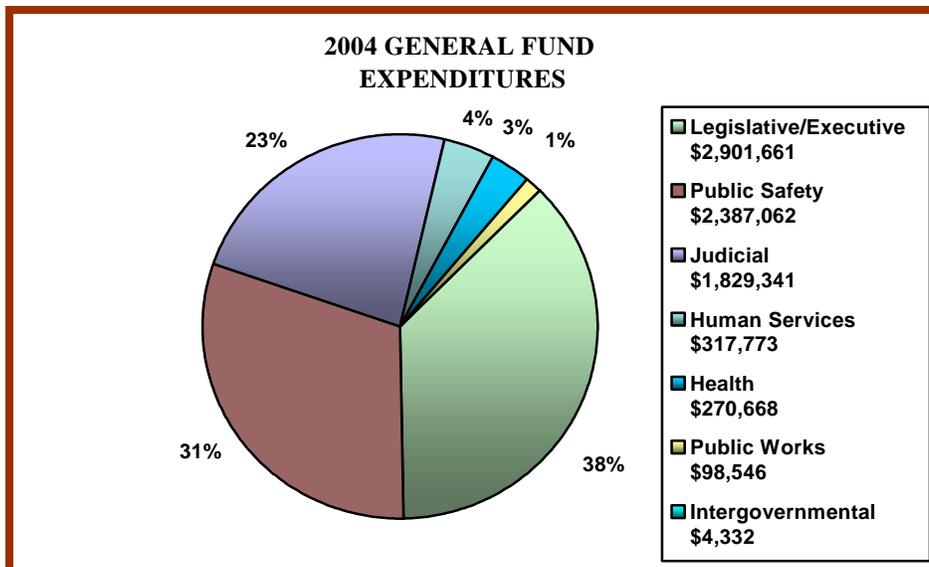
Revenues

As indicated in the chart below, the sales tax is the leading revenue source for the General Fund. The net transfers category is the difference between transfers in and transfers out. In 2004, \$2,000,000 was transferred from debt proceeds of the capital projects fund to the General Fund for reimbursement of costs associated with renovating the courthouse.



Expenditures

As indicated in the chart below, the leading expenditure categories are Legislative/Executive and Public Safety. (For category detail, refer to page 7).

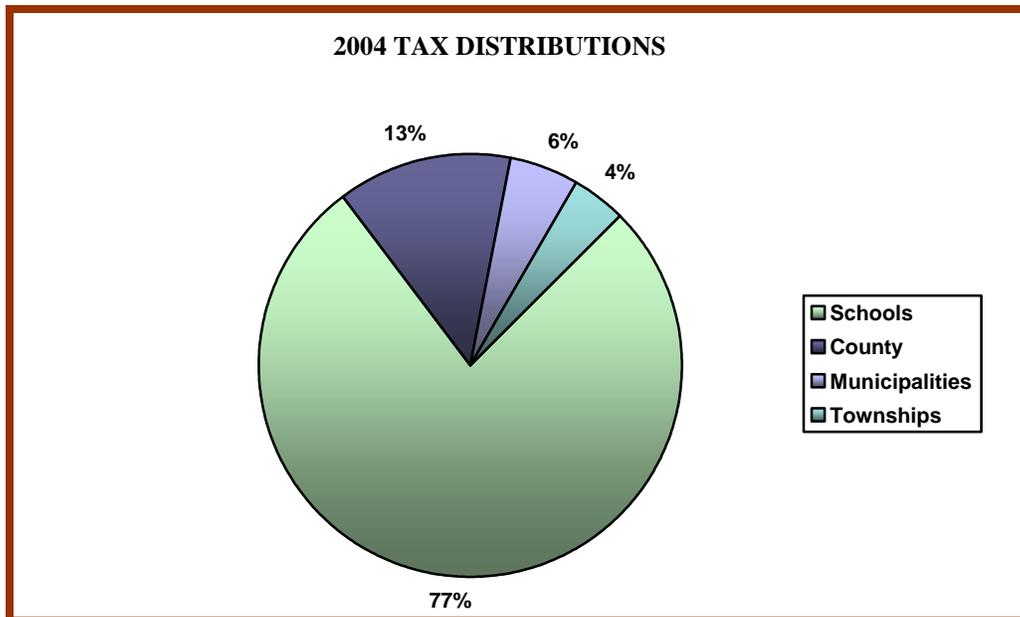


Tax Distributions

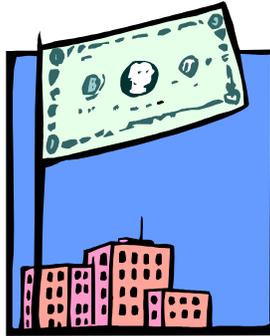
SUMMARY

By Ohio law, the County Auditor is responsible for distributing many types of taxes collected by the County. The two major types of taxes are real estate and personal property. Shown below is the distribution of these taxes for 2004.

<u>District</u>	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>	<u>Total</u>
Schools	\$19,127,008	\$6,200,147	\$25,327,155
County	3,463,074	877,135	4,340,209
Municipalities	1,541,833	276,771	1,818,604
Townships	<u>1,109,830</u>	<u>212,442</u>	<u>1,322,272</u>
Total	<u>\$25,241,745</u>	<u>\$7,566,495</u>	<u>\$32,808,240</u>



Your County Property Tax Dollar



Your County property tax dollar funds numerous programs of County Government. The next two pages provide a summary of the County's tax levies, both voted and unvoted, and the cost of those levies to the taxpayer.

General Operating - This is the permanent 2.20 mills of the "inside 10 mills" of unvoted property tax that is allocated for the General Fund of Crawford County. Revenues from this levy can increase due to property valuation, reappraisals, and new construction. This levy is used to pay for the general operating expenses of the County.

Mental Retardation - A 3.50 mill continuing levy was approved by Crawford County voters in 2004. These monies support the care and training of mentally retarded children and adults in the County.

Mental Health - A ten year levy of 1.00 mills was originally approved in 1988 and renewed in 1997. Levy proceeds are now sent to the Crawford-Marion Alcohol, Drug Addiction Mental Health Services Joint County District as Crawford County's share of the operating costs. These monies support the administration and distribution of mental health services in the County. This levy will expire in 2007.

Fairview Manor - In 1996, Crawford County voters approved a 1.00 mill replacement levy. Levy proceeds support the administration and services at the County Home. This levy will expire in 2005.

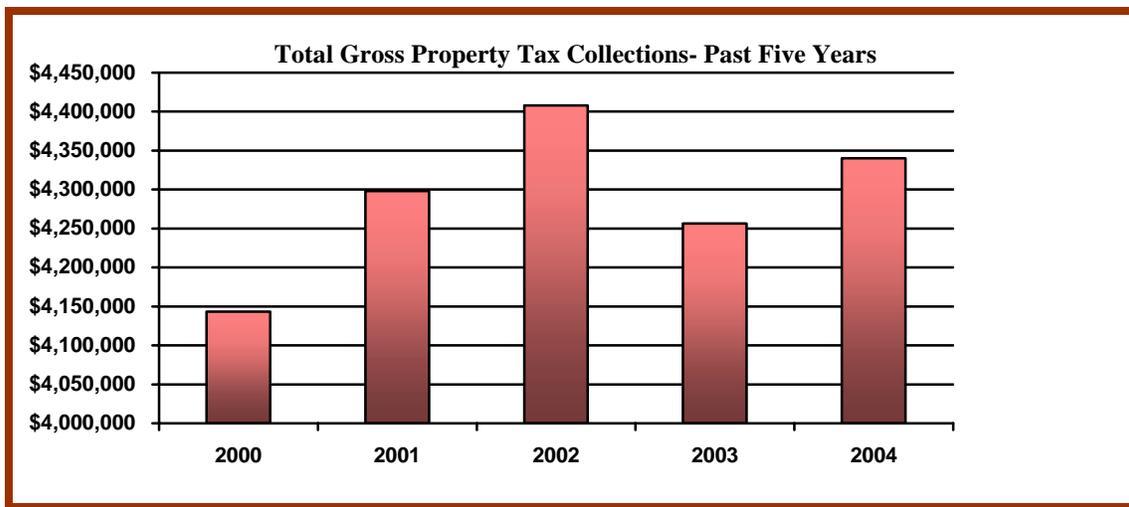
Children's Services - During 1996, Crawford County voters approved a .50 mill levy for the purpose of serving abused, neglected, and dependent children in the County. This levy will expire in calendar year 2005.

Council on Aging - During 1995, Crawford County voters also approved a .60 mill levy for the maintenance and operation of services for senior citizens. These services are provided through the local Council on Aging. This levy expired in 2004.

Your Tax Dollars, Continued

HOW THE CRAWFORD COUNTY PORTION OF YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS WAS SPENT IN 2004.

<u>TAX/LEVY</u>	<u>2004 GROSS TAX COLLECTIONS</u>
General Operating	\$ 1,355,547
Mental Retardation	1,553,868
Mental Health	425,757
Fairview Manor	465,771
Children's Services	232,886
Council on Aging	306,380
TOTAL	<u>\$4,340,209</u>



Total gross property tax collections increased by \$83,600 in 2004 as a result of an increase in real estate tax collections for the year. This increase is mostly attributable to the triennial update. Fluctuations in property tax collections since 2002 are a result of higher than normal delinquent collections. Overall, the total amount of gross property tax collections for all County levies has increased 4.75% since 2000.

The average market value of a home in Crawford County is approximately \$65,981. Based on 2004 percent of distribution, Crawford County's portion of the total property tax on a home that is appraised for tax purposes at \$65,981 is \$159.69. The balance of property taxes owed went to schools and other local governments.



County Debt

SUMMARY

As of December 31, 2004, the County's debt consisted of \$15,940,180 in general obligation bonds and \$4,000,000 in bond anticipation notes. General Obligation bonds are long-term debt instruments which are repaid from the County's general revenue sources. Bond Anticipation Notes are instruments due in one year or less and are issued to raise money for projects of the County. These notes are usually turned into bonds after a short period of time. All bonds and notes are backed by the full faith and credit of the County. Standard & Poor's Corporation and Moody's Investors Service, Inc. have assigned an underlying rating of A-and BAA1, respectively, to the outstanding general obligation debt of the County. However, a AAA credit rating was listed on the bonds since the County purchased insurance from AMBAC Indemnity Corporation guaranteeing bond payments. The legal debt margin for Crawford County was \$11,296,905 at December 31, 2004. A summary of the outstanding debt, by type, at December 31, 2004 is as follows:

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF COUNTY DEBT OUTSTANDING - DECEMBER 31, 2004 GENERAL OBLIGATION

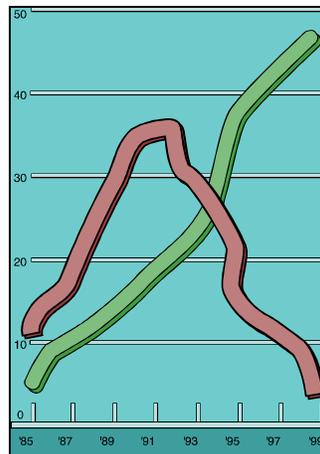
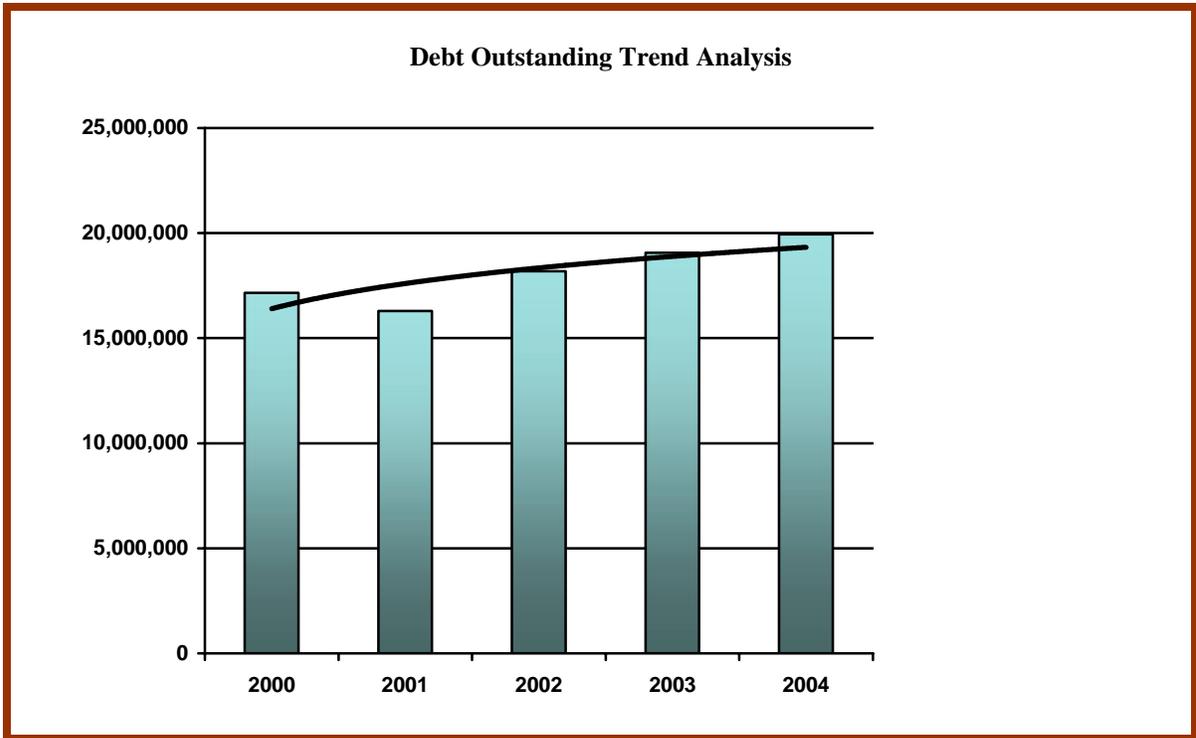
<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Balance at 1/1/04</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Outstanding at 12/31/04</u>
Landfill Improvements	\$5,500,752	\$48,399	\$779,799	\$4,769,352
Waterline Improvements	820,178	10,426	48,982	781,622
Jail Construction	3,969,224	33,997	215,000	3,788,221
Job & Family Services Building	490,000	0	40,000	450,000
Courthouse Renovation	2,909,318	0	51,761	2,857,557
County Administration Building	1,759,205	0	46,922	1,712,283
Job & Family Services Addition	<u>1,612,113</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,968</u>	<u>1,581,145</u>
Total General Obligation Bonds	<u>\$17,060,790</u>	<u>\$92,822</u>	<u>\$1,213,432</u>	<u>\$15,940,180</u>

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF COUNTY DEBT OUTSTANDING - DECEMBER 31, 2004 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Balance at 1/1/04</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Outstanding at 12/31/04</u>
Courthouse Renovation	\$900,000	900,000	900,000	\$900,000
Landfill Repairs	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
County Administration Building	<u>0</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>
Total Bond Anticipation Notes	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>
Total Principal of County Debt	<u>\$19,060,790</u>	<u>\$4,092,822</u>	<u>\$3,213,432</u>	<u>\$19,940,180</u>

County Debt, Continued

The following graph illustrates the debt outstanding for the past five years.



The Crawford County Auditor's Office

The County Auditor serves as both the Chief Financial Officer and the real property assessor for all political subdivisions within the County.

General Accounting/Fiscal Officer

As the County's Chief Financial Officer, it is the Auditor's responsibility to:

- Issue payments for all County obligations.
- Administer and distribute tax and license revenues including real estate taxes, personal property taxes, motor vehicle license fees, gasoline taxes, estate taxes, manufactured home taxes, and local government funds.
- Financial administration of the County payroll and benefits system.
- Prepare the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Real Estate Appraisal and Assessment

As real property assessor, the Auditor is responsible for a full reappraisal of over 32,000 parcels of real property in the County every six years, with an interim update every third year. The last full reappraisal was in 2000. The Auditor also prepares and maintains a comprehensive set of the County's real estate records that include ownership, appraised value, property description, as well as dimensions and sketches for each parcel. These records are open to the public. For taxation purposes, property owners are assessed at 35 percent of fair market value.

Along with the Treasurer and President of the Board of County Commissioners, the Auditor serves on the County Board of Revision, which hears all complaints regarding the valuation of real property and may revise real estate assessments, except those for public utilities.

Real Estate Taxes and Rates

The County Auditor cannot raise or lower property taxes. Tax rates are determined by the budgetary requests of each governmental unit, as authorized by the vote of the people. Rates are calculated by the Ohio Department of Taxation, Division of Tax Equalization.

Weights and Measures

The Crawford County Auditor's Office ensures that all commercial weighing and measuring devices are accurate. Gas pumps, price scanners, and meat and produce scales are checked annually. Each year the Auditor's Office inspects nearly 1,000 devices at locations throughout the County.

Personal Property Tax

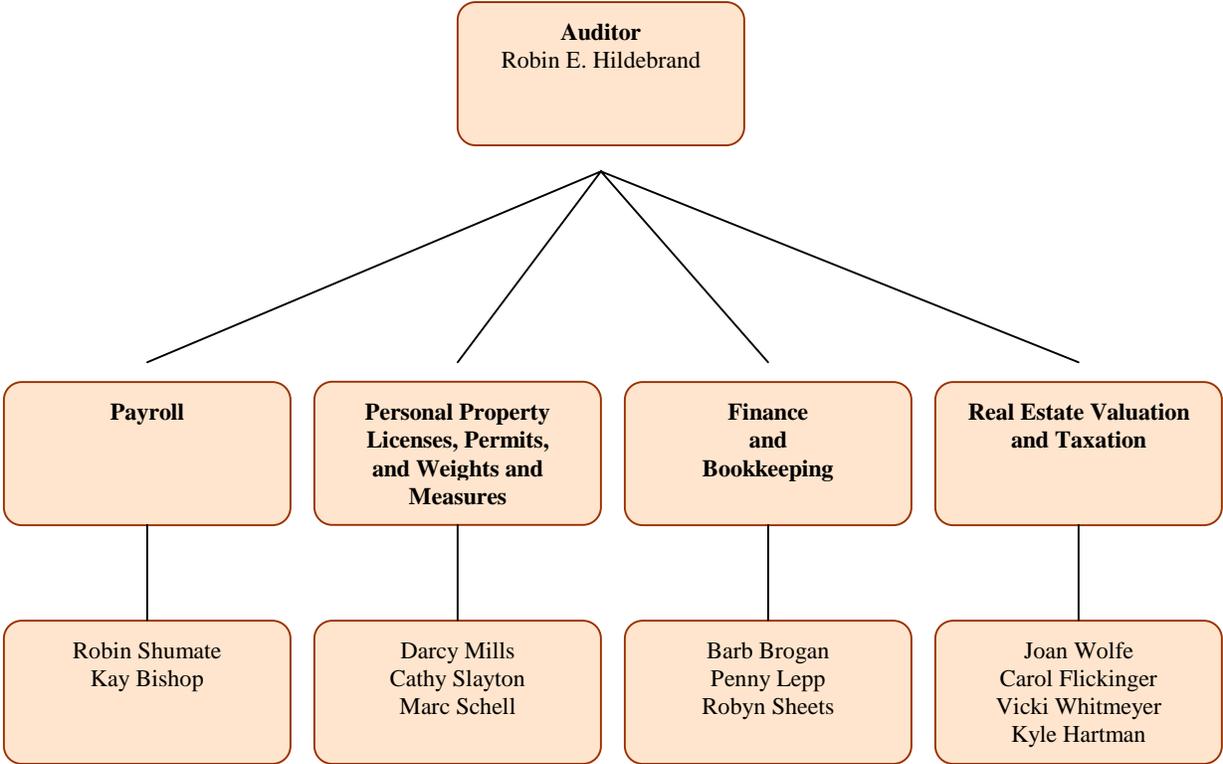
The Auditor's Office administers the state's tangible personal property tax laws. Tangible tax is on equipment, furniture, fixtures and inventory used in business. This tax is distributed back to the local taxing districts just like real estate taxes.

Licensing

The Auditor's Office also administers the licensing for dogs, kennels, vendors, and cigarettes. Crawford County issues more than 7,000 dog licenses annually. Vendor licenses authorize the collection of sales taxes by businesses. A portion of this tax is returned for use by the County.

The County Auditor's Office, Continued

**ORGANIZATION & REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES
AUDITOR'S OFFICE
CRAWFORD COUNTY, OHIO**



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