



Davis
COUNTY

Clerk / Auditor

Davis County Administration Building - P.O. Box 618 - Farmington Utah 84025
Telephone: (801) 451-3420 – Fax: (801) 451-3504 – TDD (801) 451-3228

Steve S. Rawlings, CGFM
Clerk/Auditor

Budget Message for 2015

December 9, 2014

Thanks to our Elected Officials, Department Heads, Budget Committee and very qualified staff who have diligently helped assemble the balanced budget presented this evening for public comment and Commission approval. You have the budget documents before you that have been made available to the public since November 30. There is also supplemental information which has been handed out this evening for review and comment.

A quick review of the materials available includes:

Budget Message for 2015
Who Gets Your Tax Dollars Chart
Budget Highlight Sheet
Budget Final Page and Fund Summary

Davis County has had relatively flat operating budgets for the past five years. The overall economy is improving with little remedy to County Government for relief in being able to offset inflationary increases. Davis County continues to strive to provide necessary services at the lowest cost to taxpayers. In presenting the proposed 2015 budget, we are not recommending any tax increases, but have assembled a relatively flat operating budget with a small increase of \$1.8 Million in operating revenues and use of accumulated Fund Balance of \$4.9 Million. With these anticipated adjustments we are not recommending any reduction to services for our County residents.

For 2015, County Departments requested an additional \$5.8 million more than revenues available. Requests have been trimmed by that \$5.8 million to match available resources.

Summarizing the comparative 2014 approved operating expenditure budget of \$106.8 million against the 2015 proposed operating expenditure budget of \$108.8 million yields a 1.9% increase or approximately \$2.0 million.

Included in this budget is a 1% COLA for all eligible employees and elected officials and a performance pay increase for all eligible merit employees. Departments have been very frugal in their utilization of budget appropriations. We have held off hiring a number of approved positions in the 2014 year and have budgeted additional FTE reductions due to attrition and soft hiring freeze to compensate for increased operating costs. The 2015 budget includes a reduction to the number of FTEs to an estimated 830. As of November 2014, the estimated FTE count for the County was 840.

Brian McKenzie Elections Manager **Yvonne Christensen** GRAMA Coordinator **Curtis Koch** Chief Deputy/Audit & Finance **Lesla Page** Administrative Assistant **L. Douglas Stone** Lead Reporting Auditor **Dax J. Teuscher** Purchasing Manager

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Davis County continues to maintain fund balances that allow for the highest bond rating available minimizing interest costs to our taxpayers. In 2013, Standard and Poor's Rating Services reaffirmed the County's AA- bond rating for its Municipal Building Authority's lease revenue bonds. The County also maintains a MIG-1 rating from Moody's investment services for its annual Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes. The MIG-1 rating is the highest rating that Moody's offers for short-term investments.

Health insurance providers nationwide are taking needed increases to maintain a positive business posture and we have built into the 2015 budget the anticipated 4% increase in those benefit costs.

As you consider your comments, please note the following areas on the "Where Your Property Tax Goes" summary as the areas that Davis County Government has responsibility and oversight for. As presented in the 2015 budget this evening, the Davis County portion approximates 20% of your total property taxes consisting of the line items for Davis County Government and the Davis County Library system.

The remaining approximate 80% of the property taxes shown on this graph are collected for the Davis School District, Cities, Sewer and Water Districts, Weber Basin Water, Fire Districts, Recreation District, and Mosquito Abatement and are distributed to those taxing entities and their respective budgets. Those budget hearings are under the management and control of those separate entities and are not included in the Davis County Budget.

As we progress through the 2015 year and continue to monitor the economic climate, we will be ready to react to any additional material downward or upward changes in revenue with offsetting changes in expenditures.

Commissioners and others attending, this concludes our budget message for the 2015 Budget. It is our recommendation that you now consider this budget for approval.

Davis County Budget Committee:

Steve S. Rawlings, Clerk/Auditor and Budget Officer; Louenda Downs, Commission Chair; John Petroff Commissioner; Bret Millburn, Commissioner; Mark Altom, Treasurer; Mark Langston, I.S. Director; Mel Miles, Personnel Director; David Cole, Chief Deputy Attorney; Curtis Koch, Chief Deputy Audit/Finance; and Jonathan Lee, Finance Director