



May 2011

HARDIN COUNTY FOCUS

KENTUCKY'S
PREMIER COUNTY



Judge/Executive
Harry L. Berry

2nd Lowest Budget in 8 Years Proposed

During the month of May, Fiscal Court will consider approving the second lowest budget in eight years! It met on May 3 in a working session to discuss the proposed FY 2011/2012 budget. The official budget ordinance came before the court for a “*first reading*” on May 9. At that time, it was unanimously approved and will come before the court for a “*second reading*” and final approval on May 24. State statutes require the Fiscal Court to approve a county budget by June 30.

Hardin County Department Directors and County Employees have done an exceptional job of being frugal with the taxpayers’ dollars while continuing county services at the same or improved levels without interruption.

We honed the budget by reducing the county’s debt to its lowest point in almost two decades, restructuring the remaining long-term debt, significantly improving the county bond rating, (thereby reducing interest on the county’s debt) and developed initiatives to reduce costs through enhanced performance and more efficient use of existing resources.

While the proposed budget does not require spending any of our savings, it does require additional belt-tightening measures within the county in order to work through the challenges of our current difficult economic times. Like families, county government must prioritize, stretch, and execute hard spending decisions to make ends meet.

The balanced budget totals \$29 million—approximately 1% more than the previous budget.

The proposed budget includes substantial expenditures in asphalt for resurfacing of county roads as well as \$200,000 to replace aging **Road Department** equipment and vehicles and over \$117,000 for salt to treat county roads during next year’s winter storms.

The budget provides over \$250,000 in capital expenditures in the emergency services area including \$160,000 for replacement of aging ambulances for **EMS**.

To keep Hardin County “green”, we are proposing almost \$300,000 of spending to continue the progress of the county’s ongoing recycling initiatives, litter clean-up program, and illegal dump remediation efforts. Also included is continuation of the annual “household hazardous waste collection day,” “e-scrap recycling day,” and four free service days at the landfill.

Other important efforts once again supported in the Judge’s budget are \$903,000 in support of the **Hardin County Library System**, \$50,000 for **Circuit and District “Drug Court” programs**, \$49,200 for the “**dead stock**” removal and disposal program in support of the county’s agricultural community, and \$282,000 in direct support to our area **volunteer fire departments**.