



\$28.1 Million
Balanced Budget



\$9.7% or \$3.1 million
less than current year



NO use of County Savings or
Hardin Memorial Dividends

May | e-NEWS | 2010

Hardin County focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS

FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE/EXECUTIVE HARRY L. BERRY

County Savings Remain in the Bank!

The Plan

County Government's goal is to be the *Commonwealth's Premier County in which to live, work, and raise a family.* Each and every day our County Government maximizes all available resources to provide well-planned, adequately resourced, professionally executed programs, infrastructure, and services to you, the citizens of Hardin County.

A balanced budget plan is essential to achieve our goal. We are now in the process of finalizing the 2010/2011 County Budget. This budget is "truly balanced" where income = expenses.

Maintaining Current Services

The proposed budget has not cut back on any current county services. There are no plans to layoff any employees or reduce their work hours. On the contrary, the budget proposes a salary increase for all employees!

The budget is balanced by implementing cost-saving measures in each county department. Some items of interest are:

- Salt for Snow Removal
- Volunteer Fire Department Assistance
- Environmental Protection; and
- Public Library Assistance

NO HMH Dividends



Hardin County citizens are blessed to own a first class regional healthcare center. For two decades, as the owners' representative, County Government has received the annual HMH dividend. Each of these years, we either saved these dividends or used them to fund medically related costs of the county; thereby eliminating the need for other revenue enhancements (taxes). I'm pleased to report county government is not balancing this year or next year's budget with HMH dividends.

Debt Capacity

This past year the county's debt was \$20.4 million or 16.7% of debt capacity and the associated annual payments were 11.8% of the total budget.

TODAY, I am delighted to report our current debt is **\$17.9 million** or **14.6%** of debt capacity and the associated payments are **10.5% of our budget.**

County Savings

Our County Government has not touched its general fund savings since 2005/2006. Currently, we have **\$11.9 million** in reserve and no plans to spend it!



Maintaining Low Tax Rates

Hardin County is one of the **lowest** taxed county governments in Kentucky

- NO Occupational Tax
- NO Insurance Premium Tax
- NO Library District Tax
- NO Fire District Tax
- NO Hotel Tax
- NO Restaurant Tax
- NO Local Sales Tax