



August 2011

# HARDIN COUNTY FOCUS



Judge/Executive  
Harry L. Berry

## Your County Government finished the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year with \$864,000 to Spare

Again this year, we finished the fiscal year with more revenue than expenditures and was able to make a \$864,000 deposit to our county savings.

Like many families and businesses throughout our community, your county government continues to tighten its belt and live within its means as we work through the challenges of difficult economic conditions. Similar to painful choices made by you, county government must also prioritize, stretch, and tackle hard spending decisions to make ends meet. Because we were aware of the economic circumstances of our residents we enacted the lowest real property tax rate in more than 20 years!

Our county supervisors do an outstanding job searching for ways to trim costs and stretch resources. If expenditures are not necessary, they just don't make them! Each department came in under their budget with our **Emergency Management** area leading the way spending only 80% of their budget.

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** Our EMS Department has—for the first time ever—completed the fiscal year in “black ink!” The EMS staff worked hard not only to provide state-of-the-art emergency medical services, but they were also diligent in properly documenting and obtaining the appropriate payment for their services. Their attention to detail and cooperation with the county's contracted billing service provided the resources needed to insure timely and cutting-edge treatment is available by well-trained emergency responders. Some of the newly purchased equipment includes cardiac monitors to allow for the transmission of EKGs while in route to Hardin Memorial Hospital and a battery-powered cot to reduce the strain on EMS personnel who can now easily lift patients up to 700 lbs.

**Detention Center:** The expense to operate our County Detention Center continues to exceed the state funds we receive. While costs surpass revenue by \$2,747,373, it is an improvement of \$88,000 over last year! By contracting for meal preparation and medical care, we've reduced these expenditures by 17% over the last five years. Hardin Memorial Hospital's expense to provide medical care for the Detention Center's inmates was drastically reduced from an all-time high in 2005/2006 of \$647,732 to the current \$148,776.

**Road Department:** We spent \$2,807,251 to maintain our county roads last year, using 12,667 tons of asphalt at a cost of \$614,253. The cost of asphalt has doubled since the July 2005 low of \$24.55 per ton to today's price of \$49.95 per ton.

**Carbon Credits:** A boost to our revenues came in the form of the sale of carbon credits. These credits are derived from the environmentally approved destruction of methane gas in the production of “green electricity” at the county landfill. The first sale of carbon credits resulted in an additional \$47,000 for our county. We anticipate a revenue stream of approximately \$200,000 annually from the sales over the next two to three years.

**Summary:** While our federal and state governments continue to over spend, your county government continues to operate within the resources provided. Our county remains one of the lowest taxed counties in the Commonwealth with our lowest real property tax rate in over 20 years. Our bond rating continues to be among the top 15% of local governments nationwide. We have financial reserves totaling \$13.1 million while our debts total just 12.5% of our approved debt capacity. We take seriously the challenge to provide the required services without overspending.

**Landfill Free Service Day on August 20 from 8:00 am to 2:00 p.m.**

**Household Hazardous Waste and Prescription Drug Disposal on September 10 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm**