



Hardin County, Kentucky

Good Financial News for the County

Rainy Day Fund Increased by Quarter Million \$

Like families and businesses throughout our community, Hardin County Government continued to tighten its belt and live within its means as we worked through the challenges of this difficult economy during this past budget year. Similar to the painful choices families and businesses make, county government must also prioritize, stretch, and tackle hard spending decisions to make ends meet. As a result, your county added \$248,740 to our general reserves or “rainy day fund.”

One of the many “good news stories” of this past budget year continues to be the Emergency Medical Services financial condition. For the 3rd consecutive year, EMS’s expenses were within 2% of revenue. For decades, the cost of ambulance service exceeded revenue by over 15%. Our EMS staff is working hard, not only to provide state-of-the-art emergency medical services, but to also be diligent in properly documenting and obtaining the appropriate payment for their services.

Another boost to the bottom line appeared at the end of this fiscal year when the sale of carbon credits came to fruition. These credits are derived from the environmentally approved destruction of methane gas in the production of “green electricity” at the county landfill. This sale netted over \$100,000 of revenue. We anticipate a revenue stream of approximately \$200,000 in this new budget year.

Like virtually every other jail in the Commonwealth, the expense to operate Hardin County’s Detention Center still exceeds the state funds it receives. Total operational costs were \$3 million more than revenue this year.

All county departments were under their spending plans from 1% to 20%. County supervisors do an excellent job finding ways to trim costs and stretch resources.

While our federal and state governments continue to spend more, your county government operates within the available resources. We take seriously the challenge to provide the programs and services required without overspending.



Judge/Executive
Harry L. Berry

County Holds Tax Rate at 10.9¢ Per \$100 of Valuation

In the current economic situation, it is not the time to increase tax rates. Your county government is holding the 2012 Real Property Tax Rate at the same rate it has been since 2008—10.9¢ per \$100 of property valuation.

During my ten-year administration, we have set the tax rate below the maximum rate allowed by law for 7 of those years. A more detailed evaluation is more appropriate—matching the tax rate to the county’s need for revenue while considering the impact on taxpayers. With this approach, Hardin County enjoys one of the lowest property tax rates in the state.

The most effective way to meet our citizens’ urgent needs is to keep as much money as we can in the hands of our families during these challenging times.