

**Park County  
Fiscal Year 2011  
Budget Message  
Adopted July 13, 2010**

**General Government Fund**

**Financial Policies and Goals for Fiscal Year 2011**

- The Park County Board of County Commissioners faced two primary issues in the FY2011 budget – declining property tax revenues following a record-high year and the ongoing expansion of the Park County Regional Landfill at Cody.
- Property tax revenues fell from \$12,399,332.14 in Fiscal Year 2010 to \$8,894,954.82 for FY2011. Of this amount, \$1,876,360.07 will be allocated for operations by Park County’s four appointed boards (Fair, Library, Museum and Parks and Recreation).
- To meet the anticipated decrease in general funds available from the property tax the Board of County Commissioners asked all elected officials, department heads and boards to submit flat or decreased budgets wherever possible. The result is a decrease in General Fund requests from \$27,618,858.99 approved for Fiscal Year 2010 to \$23,003,660.13 proposed for Fiscal Year 2011 in the General Fund.
- Commissioners declined wage increases for employees for FY2011 but approved absorbing the increased cost of health insurance premiums and state mandated increases in the Wyoming Retirement System.
- If revenues are received as projected and there are no unanticipated large expenses the Board of County Commissioners may choose to transfer the remaining funds to reserves at fiscal year end to assist with possible future revenue shortfalls.
- The FY2011 budget includes funds to complete projects under way to improve Park County’s buildings, including completion of the Road and Bridge Shop in Powell and completion of energy efficiency improvements at the Park County Complex. Funds are also authorized to complete improvements to the Powell Library building, to upgrade electrical infrastructure at the Fairgrounds and replace a communications tower on Cedar Mountain.
- Funding was provided for community service organizations including organizations serving the mental health population, crisis services, food assistance programs, senior citizens, economic development, youth programs and animal care groups.

**Budget Highlights**

- Park County’s assessed valuation for FY2011 fell to \$741,246,235, generating \$8,894,954.82 from the 12 mills authorized by Park County to fund the four appointed boards and County general operations.

- The General Fund budget includes anticipated revenues other than property taxes of \$13,749,605.66. Revenue sources include sales and use tax, (PILT), Secure Rural Schools, gasoline and fuel taxes, charges for County services, grant funds and numerous other revenue streams.
- County Commissioners allocated the use of \$2,644,243.92 in fund balance (cash carryover) from Fiscal Year 2010 toward the operations for Fiscal Year 2011.
- The budget adopted by the Board of County Commissioners did not require a transfer of funds from reserves to cover the general operations of the County organization.
- All excess funds collected on the construction of the Park County Library (\$427,291.02 at the start of Fiscal Year 2011) will be transferred to the General Fund when required timeframes have been met.
- General Fund expenditures for FY2011 are estimated at \$23,003,660.13, down \$4,575,000 from the FY2010 budget. Nearly every department submitted a flat or decreased budget for FY2011. A number of large projects funded through the General Fund were also completed or nearly completed in FY2010.
- Where possible and practical, grant funds will be used to fund necessary infrastructure improvements. This includes the continuation of the Road and Bridge Shop in Powell, energy efficiency improvements at the Park County Complex and construction of a new communications tower on Cedar Mountain.
- To address any potential cash flow needs, Commissioners may, from time to time, temporarily transfer funds from reserve accounts to the General Operating Fund for budgeted programs and projects. Funds used for these purposes will be paid back to the reserve fund as revenues allow.
- Park County's health insurance premiums will increase for FY2011 to \$440 for single coverage and \$1045 for family coverage each month.

### **General Changes to Expenses and Revenues from Prior Year**

- Although Park County continues to receive full funding for the federal government's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and Secure Rural Schools Act, Park County received less than anticipated for both programs in FY2010, partially the result of formula calculation errors by the federal government in past years. PILT funding for FY2011 is projected at \$1,518,000 and Secure Rural Schools funding is projected at \$846,000. The programs are designed to compensate counties where federal lands prevent full tax assessment.
- Through careful cost containment by department heads and elected officials, the Board of County Commissioners have adopted a budget that may allow \$800,000 to be transferred to reserves at the end of Fiscal Year 2011 if revenues are received as projected and expenses stay within budget. The decision to transfer funds to reserves will be made prior to fiscal 2011 year end.
- Projects using Federal stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will continue during Fiscal Year 2011, all of them having been started during the prior fiscal year. ARRA funds are assisting with the energy efficiency upgrades at the Complex, the Victim Witness program and the project to expand and line the Park County Regional Landfill in Cody.
- Park County will begin a long-range plan to upgrade the electrical infrastructure at the Park County Fairgrounds, including planning for future construction or expansion as well as the repair to basic electrical components currently in place

- Additional capital projects will primarily focus on upgrades to existing facilities including the Park County Library building in Powell, Park County Museum in Powell, carpeting in various county buildings and remodel of the Public Health offices.

### **Changes in Financial Policy**

- With completion of the Park County Regional Landfill construction project on the horizon, the Board of County Commissioners will be able to shift focus from that construction project to other County needs including roads and bridges, building maintenance and funding for the closure of landfills in Powell, Meeteetse and Clark. During this fiscal year Commissioners may address retirement of the debt created from low and no interest loans for the landfill project if funding is available.
- As noted throughout this budget message, the Commissioners continue to focus on building reserve funds. Fiscal Year 2010 was a unique year where property taxes, combined with unexpected full funding on federal programs, allowed the County to set aside over \$6,000,000 in reserve funds. Fiscal Year 2011 may see a \$800,000 transfer to reserves

### **Solid Waste (Landfill) Fund**

Fiscal Year 2011 will see Phase I of Park County's landfill expansion and lining project reach completion. Under regulations from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Park County was required to install a liner to prevent groundwater contamination. In addition, the County reached capacity at the Meeteetse landfill, requiring closure and transfer of all waste to the Regional Landfill in Cody. The landfill in Powell was given a two-year extension to 2012 at which time all new waste must be transported to the Regional Landfill in Cody. Funding from many sources, including increased tipping fees, federal stimulus funds and reserves have been used to fund the expansion and lining of the landfill south of Cody.

As part of the regional landfill concept, efforts are underway County-wide to expand recycling opportunities and to explore the most cost-effective means to transfer the waste from outlying communities to the Regional Landfill. The closure of outlying landfills will result in increased costs to complete long-term post-closure work. Funding for post-closure work will continue in FY2011.

### **County Road Fund (CRF)**

Established to help counties with road construction needs, the County Road Fund (originally known as the County Farm-to-Market program) is established under Wyoming statutes to be used solely for construction, re-construction and maintenance of county roads, bridges and culverts. The County Road Fund is funded from gasoline taxes (using a formula of rural population and land area) and severance taxes (using population, county road mileage and assessed valuation).

The County Road Fund for Fiscal Year 2011 shows projected revenues \$544,817 from the state plus \$7,000 interest. Expenses are projected at \$180,000, which includes a \$100,000 transfer to the General Fund. Funds are being accumulated for future construction work on the Willwood Bridge, expected to begin in 2015. The Fund begins FY2011 with a fund balance just under \$900,000. After factoring revenues and expenses through June 30, 2011, Park County expects a fiscal year end fund balance of over \$1,270,000.

## **E-911**

Park County area residents participate in a program authorized under State Statute 16-9-101 through 16-9-108, known as the Emergency Telephone Service Act. Under this Act, Park County collects a \$.50 monthly surcharge on every local wireline and wireless telephone in Park County. Funds collected must be used to install, maintain and operate an E-911 system in Park County.

During Fiscal Year 2011 Park County anticipates receiving \$175,000 in revenues. The fund has a starting balance of just over \$473,000. Expenses are anticipated at \$404,500 during the fiscal year. Fund balance at year end is expected at \$244,524.

## **Appointed Boards**

The Board of County Commissioners appoints members to serve on Boards providing oversight for the Park County Fair, Library, Museum and Parks and Recreation. These four entities in turn provide services to the Park County residents through funding from the County's 12 mills of ad valorem (property) taxes. Park County is allowed to levy up to 12 mills from the assessed valuation for use by the County and the four Boards combined. For Fiscal Year 2011, the County budgeted \$1,876,360.07 for distribution to the four boards as follows.

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Fair Board	275,265.00
Library	1,313,075.35
Museum	178,019.72
Recreation	110,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,876,360.07</b>

Respectfully Presented

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Kelly Jensen  
Park County Clerk  
Budget Officer