



Marion County OREGON

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Contact: Nelsa Brodie, Public Information Coordinator, 503-566-3916
or John Lattimer, Chief Administrative Officer, 503-588-5212

Proposed 2008-09 County Budget Presented Today

This afternoon, Marion County Chief Administrative Officer John Lattimer presented his budget message and 2008-09-budget proposal to the Marion County Board of Commissioners.

“With the nations’ economy in a downturn, Marion County faces difficult financial issues in the future,” Lattimer said. “Our Council of Economic Advisors has projected a reduction in revenues for at least the next two years. Fortunately, the Budget Committee and Board of Commissioners have been fiscally responsible over the past four years and we will not be facing the severe reductions in services and programs that other jurisdictions are facing,” he said.

Lattimer is proposing a balanced budget of \$331,223,250. He said that without changing resources or spending, the county would have a substantial deficit by 2009-10. With that in mind, Lattimer is proposing the establishment of a special Marion County Finance and Budget Task Force to thoroughly analyze revenues and expenditures and make recommendations that structure the general fund at a sustainable level. In addition, Lattimer is recommending a county hiring freeze for general fund positions beginning July 1.

Lattimer outlined the major changes in revenue sources that are affecting the overall budget. This includes reduced revenues from recording fees and the decline of interest and tax investment income. He also explained that the elimination of the federal Secure and Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act eliminates \$2.5 million dollars from the County road budget and \$1.4 million from the general fund.

The full text of Lattimer’s message and budget outline can be found by going to Marion County home page: www.co.marion.or.us and click under “**What’s New.**” Over the next few weeks, department heads will present and discuss their department budgets. The public is invited to view these live on CCTV or in person at the Senator Hearing Room, 555 Court Street, Salem. A schedule of these hearings is also posted. There will be opportunity for the public to provide comment over the next month. Those dates are Thursday, May 15th at 9am and Tuesday, May 27th at 5:30pm.

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