ASSESSOR/TAX



MISSION STATEMENT

Assess, collect and distribute tax revenue while providing information to the citizens of Marion County.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. The establishment of sound assessment values based on accurate records obtained using efficient methods.

Objective 1. Develop an accurate inventory that correctly reflects all properties in Marion County.

Objective 2. Promote equity in the property tax system to ensure that values are correctly placed on the rolls so that no one individual or entity pays excess or insufficient taxes.

Objective 3. Continually improve efficiency in the methods used to gather, process and analyze data by taking advantage of new technologies, ingenuity and creativity.

Goal 2. Manage the office efficiently by means of cost controls and operational accountability.

Objective 1. Create a work environment that fosters commitment and shared intentions to promote creativity, stewardship and trust.

Objective 2. Acquire an automated assessment system that will perform the necessary functions of this office at a realistic cost.

Objective 3. Refine the processes and structure of the office to increase productivity and efficiency.

Goal 3. Minimize the costs of collecting taxes, maximize the revenues generated, while maintaining a high degree of efficiency and accuracy.

Objective 1. Efficiently and accurately collect property taxes in Marion County and distribute those revenues generated to the various taxing districts.

Objective 2. Utilize the most current technology and cost-effective services, such as the data exchange program, lockbox payment system, Oregon DAS printing and mailing service for tax statement mailing, certified letter mailing service and acceptance of credit and debit card payments online.

Goal 4. Establish and maintain a favorable impression of the service the Marion County Tax Collector's Office provides.

Objective 1. Proudly serve the citizens and customers of Marion County in a friendly, professional, ethical and efficient manner.

Objective 2. Maintain the highest degree of accuracy, efficiency and customer service by disseminating timely property tax information to our customers in the quickest possible manner using the minimum amount of resources.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Assessor/Tax Collector, who is elected to a four-year term by the voters of Marion County, heads the department. The assessor/tax office is responsible for the appraisal and assessment of all types of property in Marion County, as defined in Oregon statute and administrative rule including: commercial, industrial, multi-family, personal property, manufactured structures, residential, rural and farm specially assessed properties. The review and certification of all local operating budgets for over 77 taxing districts and 336 special districts in Marion County that provide services to all citizens is also a responsibility of the office.

The assessor's office administers a number of exemption programs that are mandated by the state. Exemptions include the following designations: veterans, active duty military service member, historical, enterprise zone and non-profit entities. The department provides up-to-date maps, comparable sales information, forms for manufactured structures, deed and ownership tracking, and assistance with a variety of programs such as senior and disabled citizen deferrals.

All residential, manufactured structure, farm and a majority of commercial properties are revalued using automated computer models. The factors of value utilized in these procedures were developed from studies performed by appraisal staff. The department is now in an annual cycle of recalculating all the values for residential and rural properties in the county, approximately 135,000 accounts. In conjunction with the recalculation process, we have incorporated a cycle for the reappraisal of property within each individual appraiser's area of responsibility, or "franchise area". Each property appraiser physically inspects approximately one-sixth of their franchise area annually, thus maintaining an accurate inventory and current records, as well as enabling the appraisers to discover improvements that may otherwise have been overlooked. The recalculation and reappraisal processes combined allows maximum effectiveness in assigning fair and equitable values to all properties within Marion County.

The assessor/tax department total FY08-09 budget is \$6,058,959 a \$99,405 increase, or 1.7%, over FY07-08. This office is funded 100% by the general fund.

Assessor/Tax	FY 2005-06 Actual	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Budget	FY 2008-09 Adopted	+/- %
Resources:					
General Funds	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959	1.7%
Total Resources	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959	1.7%
Requirements:					
Personal Services:					
Salaries and Wages	2,584,405	2,543,638	3,097,732	3,111,791	0.5%
Fringe Benefits	1,211,379	1,147,497	1,396,904	1,446,308	3.5%
Subtotal Personal Services	3,795,783	3,691,135	4,494,636	4,558,099	1.4%
Materials and Services	479,808	350,996	381,531	341,870	(10.4%)
Administrative Charges	914,704	1,062,562	1,083,387	1,158,990	7.0%
Total Requirements	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959	1.7%
FTE	66.00	65.00	65.00	64.00	(1.5%)

Resource and Requirement Summary

PROGRAMS

The assessor/tax department budget is allocated to two programs that are shown on the following table:

Summary of Department Programs

	FY 2005-06 Actual	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Budget	FY 2008-09 Adopted	+/- %
RESOURCES	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959	1.7%
REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM					
Admin., Valuation, Cartography	4,765,705	4,624,721	5,393,161	5,495,277	1.9%
Tax	424,590	479,972	566,393	563,682	-0.5%
Total	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959	1.7%

Administration, Valuation and Cartography Program

- Develop future long and short-term strategic plans and goals for the Assessor's and Tax Offices
- Annual budgeting and grant preparation

Department: Assessor

- Provide accurate and timely information to the Board of Commissioners, taxing districts, public support groups and the state legislature
- Provide excellent customer service to both internal customers and the general public
- Maintain accounts payable and receivable, payroll and petty cash
- Maintain all department personnel, appraisal training and educational records
- Intake and processing of subdivision and partition plats and annexations
- Maintain Veteran's and Active Military Service Member Exemptions and Senior and Disabled Citizen's Deferral programs
- Valuation of new construction, reappraisal of existing properties, manufactured structures, specially assessed properties, un-zoned farmland, designated forestland, residential, commercial, industrial, multi-family, personal and exempt properties
- Maintain an inventory of all parcels in the county that reflect boundaries, tax lot or account number, ownership and acreage
- Maintain a system of areas reflecting taxing district boundaries, changes to existing districts or creation of new districts

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Fund: General							
	FY 2005-06 Actual	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Budget	FY 2008-09 Adopted	+/- %		
Resources:							
General Fund	4,765,705	4,624,721	5,393,161	5,495,277	1.9%		
Total Resources	4,765,705	4,624,721	5,393,161	5,495,277	1.9%		
Requirements:							
Personal Services:							
Salaries and Wages	2,439,026	2,377,923	2,913,695	2,923,345	0.3%		
Fringe Benefits	1,145,386	1,073,046	1,311,931	1,357,918	3.5%		
Subtotal	3,584,412	3,450,969	4,225,626	4,281,263	1.3%		
Materials and Services	350,676	213,757	208,609	169,370	-18.8%		
Administrative Charges	830,617	959,995	958,926	1,044,644	8.9%		
Total Requirements	4,765,705	4,624,721	5,393,161	5,495,277	1.9%		
FTE	62.00	61.00	61.00	60.00	-1.6%		

Program: Administration, Valuation and Cartography

Program: Administration	
Personnel Positions	
Title of Position	FTE
Assessor/Tax Collector	1
Chief Deputy Assessor/Tax Collector	1
Administrative Manager	1
GIS/Cartographic Supervisor	1
Appraisal Section Supervisor	3
Sales Data Analyst I	1
Property Appraiser, Sr.	4
Property Appraiser 2	19
Data Collector	3
Personal Property Appraisal Technician	1
GIS Analyst I	1
Cartographer/GIS Tech 2	1
Cartographer/GIS Tech 1	1
Assessment Clerk, Sr.	5
Assessment Clerk	14
Department Specialist 4	1
Department Specialist 2	2
Total FTE	60

Administration, Valuation, and Cartography Program Budget Analysis

The total FTE in this program was reduced by one FTE (property appraiser 2) for FY08-09 as a direct result of the evolution of the organizational structure and streamlining of work processes. Temporary staffing requirements were reduced by 50%, or \$11,000 by cross-training existing personnel to cover peak workflow periods for the commercial appraisal section. The reduction was done at the Budget Committee stage, after recommendation by the assessor and budget officer.

The materials and services category was reduced by \$39,239 from FY07-08, in part due to telecommunications charges being re-allocated from materials and services to administrative charges. There are budget reductions in areas such as office supplies, postage, office equipment maintenance, meals and conferences.

Line item budgeted expenditures in some categories such as employee safety clothing, graphic services (aerial maps) and signs are cyclical. These items were included in the FY07-08 budget, but will not be budgeted for again until FY09-10 or beyond, depending on need and/or availability.

Minor budgetary increases were made to software maintenance to add four new APEX software licenses, public officials bonds for increased bonding fees, training to maintain our aggressive training program, and dues and memberships to cover annual dues required to access the Regional Multiple Listing Service (RMLS) web site, which provides valuable sales and valuation information to our appraisal staff.

Tax Program

- Maintain records for all financial transactions affecting the tax roll
- Assist the general public, businesses and government agencies by providing information concerning property records or taxes, and to collect tax payments
- Establish and effectuate controls for the safekeeping of daily cash receipts
- Make corrections to the tax roll, as directed by the Assessor/Tax Collector

Department: Assessor	Program: Tax						
	Fund: General						
	FY 2005-06 Actual	FY 2006-07 Actual	FY 2007-08 Budget	FY 2008-09 Adopted	+/- %		
Resources:							
General Fund	424,590	479,972	566,393	563,682	-0.5%		
Total Resources	424,590	479,972	566,393	563,682	-0.5%		
Requirements:							
Personal Services:							
Salaries and Wages	145,379	188,421	184,037	188,446	2.4%		
Fringe Benefits	65,992	51,745	84,973	88,390	4.0%		
Subtotal	211,372	240,166	269,010	276,836	2.9%		
Materials and Services	129,132	137,239	172,922	172,500	-0.2%		
Administrative Charges	84,086	102,567	124,461	114,346	-8.1%		
Total Requirements	424,590	479,972	566,393	563,682	-0.5%		
FTE	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.0%		

Program: Tax

Personnel Positions

Title of Position	FTE
Tax Office Supervisor	1.00
Tax Clerk, Sr.	1.00
Tax Clerk	2.00
Total FTE	4.00

Tax Program Budget Analysis

The tax program budget remains essentially status quo for FY08-09. There are no changes in FTE, and a slight overall reduction in materials and services. The sole line item increase was for postage, based on FY07-08 actual expenditures and projected increases due to another proposed postage increase scheduled to take effect in May of 2008. Decreases in budgeted expenditures were in areas such as office supplies, legal services, mileage, conferences and training.

FUNDS

The assessor/tax department budget is comprised of one fund, which is the general fund.

KEY DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY2007-08

- Over the past year, our organizational framework has been examined and reorganized to make the most effective use of current staff and management skills, talents and training. One of our primary goals is to create a more efficient work environment, and to accommodate staffing succession.
- Approximately \$284,500,000 in operating revenues for the many taxing districts in Marion County has been levied, including over \$51,500,000 for the Marion County general fund.
- We continue to serve over 7,000 customers per month with requests, inquiries and assistance in obtaining sales, ownership, valuation and property tax information. Our office also provides help with completing and filing forms for exemptions, deferrals and other programs.
- In March, the assessor's office successfully launched a web site that provides the general public, government and business communities with assessment and tax information for all real property in Marion County. This information is free and available to anyone who has computer and Internet access.
- The tax office, in conjunction with Official Payments Corporation, has received over \$1,748,000 in tax revenues since July, 2007 by allowing taxpayers to pay their bills by phone or online with credit cards or by electronic check. While the majority of taxpayers continue to make their payments by mail, this new feature nonetheless provides an easy, alternative method of payment.
- The cartographic section has processed over 79 subdivisions this fiscal year, representing a 40% average increase over previous years and the second highest number of subdivisions processed within the last 10 years.
- The initial draft of the Assessor/Tax Business Continuity Plan has been developed and submitted.

Resources by Fund Detail

Department: Assessors Office				
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Adopted
100 - General Fund	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Fund				
39301 General Fund Support	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959
General Fund Total	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959

Require	ments by Fu	und Detail		
Department: Assessors Office				
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Adopted
100 - General Fund	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services				
Salaries and Wages				
51102 COLA-Budget	0	0	19,887	0
51111 Regular Wages	2,056,450	2,043,216	2,904,047	2,925,909
51112 Temporary Wages	11,602	2,550	0	0
51113 Vacation Pay	145,801	130,817	0	0
51114 Sick Pay	101,521	82,625	0	0
51115 Holiday Pay	104,433	100,323	0	0
51116 Comp Time Pay	1,262	1,314	0	0
51121 Compensation Credits	156,203	161,887	168,798	179,939
51124 Leave Payoff	2,625	19,820	0	5,943
51141 Straight Pay	1,508	0	0	0
51142 Premium Pay	3,001	1,087	5,000	0
Salaries and Wages Total	2,584,405	2,543,638	3,097,732	3,111,791
Fringe Benefits				
51211 PERS	267,032	214,048	245,829	248,468
51211 1 EKS 51212 401(k)	12,848	14,162	19,125	248,408
51212 401(k) 51213 PERS Debt Service	109,407	80,768	122,917	139,755
51220 FICA	196,159	192,601	232,413	234,896
51220 HeA 51231 Medical Insurance	533,092	545,556	666,120	685,928
51232 Dental Insurance	63,804	63,144	76,830	80,520
51232 Dental Insurance	8,107	7,907	7,743	10,066
51234 Disability Insurance	7,425	7,222	11,429	11,928
51240 Unemployment	10,390	10,229	12,288	12,426
51252 WC-Hourly Rate	1,639	1,431	2,210	2,176
51260 Wellness	992	2,341	0	2,170
51260 Wenness 51261 EAP	483	1,489	0	0
51270 County HSA Contributions		6,600	0	0
Fringe Benefits Total	1,211,379	1,147,497	1,396,904	1,446,308
Personal Services Total	3,795,783	3,691,135	4,494,636	4,558,099
Materials and Services				
52101 Office Supplies	20,898	29,624	36,638	32,000
52119 Magazines & Publications	781	736	500	500
52120 Newspapers	463	488	500	500
52121 Gasoline	20	0	0	0
52206 Sign Materials	0	989	500	0
52215 Small Office Equipment	1,420	11,580	8,792	8,000
52216 Small Departmental Equipment	0	134	0	0
52217 Computer Equipment (<\$5,000)	7,823	0	211	0
52218 Software	0	407	1,335	1,000
52220 Misc. Materials	206	0	0	0
52301 Telephones	21,456	20,036	170	0

Requirements by Fund Detail Department: Assessors Office				
Assessors office	Actual	Actual	Budget	Adopted
100 - General Fund	FY2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
52305 Postage	57,199	65,950	74,500	76,000
52308 Telecomm Charges	0	0	21,249	0
52503 Legal Services	35,457	500	1,000	500
52544 Printing Services	28,561	18,479	35,000	35,000
52545 Advertising	0	11,139	11,750	11,750
52551 Graphic Services	289	0	4,690	0
52565 Employment Agencies	8,319	0	0	0
52582 Shredding Services	0	0	69	0
52589 Temporary Staffing-external	0	81,876	37,000	26,000
52599 Miscellaneous Contractual	120,998	4,500	10,000	10,000
52601 Maint - Office Equipment	2,176	1,995	5,750	4,250
52602 Maint - Vehicle	462	0	0	0
52605 Maint - Building & Grounds	1,768	1,771	723	0
52606 Maint - Building Remodels	0	3,939	0	0
52610 Maint - Software	84,597	0	4,500	6,470
52701 Vehicle Rental	0	10	10	0
52704 Equipment Rental	13,945	11,452	19,444	19,500
52721 Motor Pool Mileage	0	0	0	400
52821 Public Officials Bonds	500	2,100	500	3,000
52911 Mileage-Employee	33,699	35,253	40,250	40,200
52913 Meals	646	1,861	3,600	3,300
52914 Lodging	969	5,289	5,500	5,500
52922 Conferences	3,211	1,937	5,500	4,450
52923 Training	4,418	13,660	14,500	16,000
52930 Dues and Memberships	870	1,004	1,050	1,650
52941 Safety Clothing	0	0	500	0
52965 Pre-Employment Investigations	315	545	500	500
52988 Recording Charges	28,342	23,350	35,000	35,000
52991 Awards And Recognition	0	390	300	400
Materials and Services Total	479,808	350,996	381,531	341,870
Administrative Charges				
60100 Board of Commissioners	61,711	55,730	57,708	45,058
60110 Governing Body Allocation	0	0	0	19,865
60200 Business Services Allocation	36,760	26,294	29,904	0
60250 Risk Management Allocation	36,729	32,394	38,271	27,677
60260 Liability Insurance Allocation	59,500	73,300	73,000	68,900
60270 Workers Comp Insurance	17,100	20,100	24,200	26,000
60300 Human Resources Allocation	66,789	58,564	67,667	93,620
60350 Facilities Management Allocation	57,170	57,616	65,421	79,253
60351 Department Parking Allocation	18,150	17,820	18,480	18,480
60352 Custodial Charges	33,907	32,480	39,158	46,891
		3,189	3,333	3,883
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60353 Courier 60354 Utilities Allocation	3,271 47,017	49,383	49,941	49,238

Requirements by Fund Detail

Require	ments by F	und Detail		
Department: Assessors Office				
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Adopted
100 - General Fund	FY2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
60410 Legal Services	55,743	67,450	74,553	70,120
60450 Information Technology	238,905	222,369	206,491	206,716
60451 Information Technology Direct	127,589	292,955	278,727	292,910
60452 FIMS Allocation	22,804	22,730	22,220	29,914
60453 Telecommunications Allocation	0	0	0	23,921
Administrative Charges Total	914,704	1,062,562	1,083,387	1,158,990
Assessors Office Grand Total	5,190,295	5,104,693	5,959,554	6,058,959

Requirements by Fund Detail

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