

Executive Summary

DuPage is a large suburban county enjoying a healthy economic climate and outstanding quality of life. County government is dedicated to providing those services necessary to preserving these conditions for its citizens today and in the future.

The County's mission is to provide quality essential services to its residents while minimizing the taxpayer's burden. The County has consistently reduced its share of the total property tax levied over the past decade, saving over \$300 million in taxes. This has resulted in more discretionary income to support the local economy and improved County government efficiency and productivity. The county's major operating fund – the Corporate Fund – reflects this conservative financial philosophy. At \$133.6 million, the Corporate Fund budget is virtually unchanged from FY2004, and is considerably lower than the FY2003 budget. DuPage County's aggregate FY2005 budget of \$463.2 million has dropped over \$200 million from FY2003 levels. While some of this reduction is due to construction projects ending, much is due to a management philosophy incorporating a balanced budget approach based on conservative revenue projections. As a result, spending constraints are emphasized. Budget development guidelines are provided on following pages in this section.

Although the County embraces conservative spending principles, the FY2005 budget makes a significant investment in human infrastructure. Along with other Collar Counties, DuPage is undergoing demographic and social change. These changes have presented numerous challenges in the provision of health and social services. The budget increases funding for health services. This includes planning and pilot project monies for mental health services, which the County Health Department has cited as a top priority. The County also renewed its commitment to human services grants and expanded various community services.

The County has always maintained a strong commitment to public safety. Although operational budgets were significantly reduced in FY2004, there were no budgetary reductions in sworn law enforcement personnel, and this commitment is maintained in FY2005. The County has been proactive in enhancing emergency preparedness in coordination with the various municipalities throughout DuPage.

Through its economic development efforts the County seeks to maintain a diverse and vigorous local economy. In FY2004 additional monies were budgeted for economic development issues, and in FY2005 several related departments were consolidated into a single coordinated Economic Development and Planning entity.

DuPage's vitality relies heavily on transportation. The County plays a critical role in maintaining a large transportation infrastructure that includes six major expressways and three major commuter lines. Rapid population growth throughout the 1990s in DuPage and surrounding environs put pressure on this infrastructure. DuPage is aggressively

working to alleviate areas of congestion and to maintain a safe and efficient transportation system throughout the County.

Outlook

The financial outlook for the upcoming years is one of challenges. The County significantly improved its cash position in FY2004 through a combination of budget reductions and management controls, and starts FY2005 with the best Corporate Fund beginning cash balance in the last four years. During FY2004 sales tax receipts made a strong recovery after a significant downturn in FY2003. Recordation fees, although inline with budgetary projections, have declined from FY2003 record levels, and are anticipated to recede to traditional levels during FY2005. State fiscal woes continue to have a spillover effect on the county, and this may worsen in the short term. State legislation passed during FY2003 resulted in the County receiving annual intergovernmental transfers of \$15 million from the DuPage Water Commission through 2007. The County's stated intent is to use these monies for public safety, public health, and public welfare purposes. FY2005 marks the third year of transfers. The County continues to identify new sources of revenue, such as federal or state funds and user fees, and ways to make County government more efficient in order to continue to meet tomorrow's demands.

**DuPage County Appropriation Summary Comparisons
Excluding Health Department & Special Service Districts**

	FY2003	FY2004 Current Appropriations a/o 10/1/04	FY2005	Diff FY2005- FY2004 in \$	Diff FY2005- FY2004 in %
All Funds					
Current Appropriations	\$571,985,466	\$506,726,562	\$461,340,342	-\$45,386,220	-9.0%
Reappropriations	\$132,186,140	\$50,724,870	\$1,894,125	-\$48,830,745	-96.3%
Total All Funds	\$704,171,606	\$557,451,432	\$463,234,467	-\$94,216,965	-16.9%
Full time Headcount	2,650	2,616	2,447		
By Major Fund Type					
Corporate					
Current Appropriation	\$165,089,533	\$133,296,561	\$133,602,506	\$305,945	0.2%
Reappropriation	\$7,684,360	\$890,741	\$1,242,701	\$351,960	39.5%
Total Corporate	\$172,773,893	\$134,187,302	\$134,845,207	\$657,905	0.5%
Full Time Headcount	1,662	1,658	1,567		
Non-Corporate Revenue *					
Current Appropriations	\$305,725,588	\$284,433,110	\$273,642,870	-\$10,790,240	-3.8%
Reappropriations	\$124,501,780	\$49,834,129	\$651,424	-\$49,182,705	-98.7%
Total Non-Corp Revenue	\$430,227,368	\$334,267,239	\$274,294,294	-\$59,972,945	-17.9%
Full Time Headcount	859	817	744		
Grants **	\$101,170,345	\$88,996,891	\$54,057,482	-\$34,939,409	-39.3%
Full time Headcount	129	141	136		

* Includes Special Revenue, Capital, and Long Term Debt

** FY2005 grant numbers are based on actual grants in hand which continue beyond November 2004.
Grant appropriations increase throughout the fiscal year as grants are renewed or new ones are received.

**DuPage County Appropriation Summary Comparisons
Includes the Health Department & Special Service Districts**

County	FY2003	FY2004 Current Appropriations a/o 10/1/04	FY2005	Diff FY2005- FY2004 in \$	Diff FY2005- FY2004 in %
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Reappropriations	\$132,186,140	\$50,724,870	\$1,894,125	-\$48,830,745	-96.3%
Total County	\$704,171,606	\$557,451,432	\$463,234,467	-\$94,216,965	-16.9%
Full time Headcount	2,650	2,616	2,447		
Health Department	\$43,019,207	\$49,062,285	\$52,005,487	\$2,943,202	6.0%
Full time Headcount	547	557	563		
Special Service Area	\$690,131	\$778,923	\$882,674	\$103,751	13.3%

Corporate Budget Guidelines

- Fiscally Conservative
 - No property tax increase
 - Conservative revenue estimates
- Balanced Budget
 - No deficit
 - Build from FY04 expenditure base
- Maintain Highest Bond Rating
 - Meet debt service obligations

FY 2005 Budget Highlights

- **No Property Tax Increase**
 - Total levy of \$59.7 million reduced \$100 thousand from prior year.
 - Aggregate Health Department levy unchanged from FY2004 at \$17.9 million.
 - Levy components shifted to increase IMRF levy.

- **Hold the line on operational spending**
 - Corporate appropriations virtually unchanged at \$133.6 million.
 - Non-Corporate revenue funds appropriations reduced \$60 million.

- **Enhance emergency preparedness**
 - Create an Emergency Preparedness division to enhance coordinated County and municipal planning, training and exercise efforts.
 - Will implement the new National Incident Management System with municipalities and fire protection districts.
 - Add a full-time emergency planner and Citizens Corps coordinator to recruit, train and register a qualified pool of emergency volunteers.

- **Expand website access to government**
 - Enhance and maintain procurement and vendor data on DuPage's website.
 - Develop emergency information and business information sites and links.
 - Improve electronic integration of County government and reduce reliance on paper.

- **Maintain Convalescent Center operations**
 - Provide \$2 million in fund transfers between November 2004 and September 2005 in order to ensure the Convalescent Center maintains a working operational reserve.

- **Commitment to Human Services Grants and Community Services**
 - Maintain \$750 thousand in Human Services grants beyond FY2004 commitment.
 - Expand para-transit program.
 - Maintain matching grants programs.
 - Increase veteran's benefits 10%.
 - Maintains the Family Self-Sufficiency program.

- **Expand Health Care Services including mental health**
 - Increase Access DuPage from \$250 thousand to \$350 thousand to expand medical services from 6,000 to 7,000 DuPage residents.
 - Provide \$100 thousand in FY2004 and \$200 thousand in FY2005 for planning and project monies to expand county-wide collaborative effort to meet mental health needs.

- **Provide a competitive wage package: 1.5% COLA; 2.5% Merit**
 - Emphasize employee performance.
 - Employee insurance premiums will not increase.

Water Commission Intergovernmental Transfers

Authorizing Legislation: Public Act 93-0226, Sec 0.04

“Beginning July 1, 2003 and prior to July 1 of each year through and including 2007, each county water commission shall from any legally available sources transfer the sum of \$15,000,000 to the county board of the home county to be used for county purposes.”

Statement of Intent

It shall be the intent of the County of DuPage to utilize county water commission intergovernmental transfers, to the greatest extent possible, to maintain and protect the public safety, health, and welfare of DuPage County residents.

FY2003-2005 Summary allocations of county water commission intergovernmental transfers

*Allocations are initial planning targets and set asides, and may be partially or fully
appropriated in future years.*

■ **Public Safety: \$23.7 million**

- Emergency management and homeland security initiatives range from equipment purchases to communications to volunteer emergency response training and other needs. FY2005 equipment will include preemption emitters allowing public safety and emergency vehicles to activate traffic signal sensors in order to travel through intersections safely.
- Water monies are used to support operations in order to preserve the public safety. In FY2004, law enforcement did not incur any layoffs for budgetary reasons. Monies will be used to maintain law enforcement/public safety operations in FY2005.
- In FY2004, \$5 million was budgeted into the county's FY04 cash reserve for high-level, large-scale emergent situations in DuPage.

■ **Public Health: \$19.2 million**

- Provides funding to the Health Department to meet operational needs in Mental Health and Community Services. This includes implementing unfunded mandates, such as HIPPA compliance and bioterrorism preparedness requiring the establishment of a countywide network of medical dispensing sites to distribute the federally mandated Strategic National Stockpile.
- Provides operational funding to make up for lagging and inadequate state Medicaid reimbursement to the County's publicly-supported nursing and rehabilitation facility, and to replace capital improvement funds originally pledged by the State of Illinois.

- Mental Health/Drug Courts provide treatment alternatives for non-violent misdemeanor criminal offenders with substance abuse problems or mental illness in order to avoid incarceration and to promote rehabilitation or improved social functioning.
 - Well water sampling is done in order to maintain the public health and prevent further contamination and illness.
 - Will increase DuPage's FY2005 contribution to the regional hazardous waste facility to \$120 thousand.
 - Funding provided for community mental health planning efforts and pilot programs. \$100 thousand will be provided in FY2004 and \$200 thousand will be provided in FY2005.
 - Funding for Access DuPage to provide medical care to medically underserved DuPage residents. Access DuPage served over 6,000 residents in FY2004. In FY2005, funding to Access DuPage will be increased by \$100 thousand to \$350 thousand in order to serve 7,000 residents.
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- **Public Welfare: \$2.1 million**
 - Grants to community organizations provide critical support, case management, counseling and advocacy services to DuPage's neediest citizens.
 - As a proactive response to Illinois' economic downturn, \$300 thousand was appropriated in FY2004 to contract with local business and job training entities to promote and maintain a solid local economic environment; and to work with stakeholders to develop strategic economic development studies, plans, and partnerships. Increasing unemployment has proven to further burden public health and safety.