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## **Arapahoe County adopts 2018 budget**

*Commissioners approve a \$390.1 million budget that includes a structurally balanced general fund and reflects the County's Align Arapahoe goals*

LITTLETON, CO --- The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a \$390.1 million budget for 2018 that reflects the County's commitment to its Align Arapahoe goals of Service First, Quality of Life and Fiscal Responsibility.

County revenues improved by 5.4 percent from 2017, which enabled the County to balance its operating budget with a \$1.6 million surplus and set aside funding for one-time uses, such as infrastructure, technology and transportation projects.

The mill levy for 2018 will be 12.817 mills, which includes a temporary tax credit of 3.072 mills to remain within the County's TABOR revenue limitations and a small refund of 2017 collections. Arapahoe County's mill levy continues to remain one of the lowest county mill levies in the Denver Metro area.

"This 2018 budget reflects the hard work, cooperation and dedication of the Board of County Commissioners, County elected officials, department directors and staff," said Commissioner Nancy Sharpe. "But, at the forefront of our budget is our citizens, who expect Arapahoe County to provide quality services, find ways to become more efficient and to use their tax dollars wisely."

The Board of County Commissioners, and members of the Executive Budget Committee, which reviews budget packages, revenues and expenses, and makes recommendations to the Commissioners for approval, focused on the following goals when developing the 2018 budget:

- Maintain a Structurally Balanced General Fund Operating Budget;
- Support the County's Total Compensation Philosophy to recognize and retain a quality workforce;
- Manage expenditures to maintain fund balances;
- Reduce the backlog of capital and maintenance projects from the recession, and;
- Be mindful of long range budget needs.

As adopted, the budget includes funding for 2,130.4 employees, an increase of 41.25 employees, of which 23 employees were added in late 2017 to support growing demands on the County's Human Services Department. The additional employees, which are primarily funded by federal and state funding sources, will replace temporary workers, which will reduce the cost of temporary staffing.

New positions funded in 2018 include an engineer and building inspector to keep up with increased construction and development workloads; an Infrastructure Manager in the Information Technology Department, additional staff for the Detention Facility; and four new patrol deputies to keep pace with growth in unincorporated Arapahoe County, to name a few.

The 2018 budget sets aside \$13.5 million for the County's Capital Improvement Program, which addresses a variety of infrastructure, facility, technology and public safety needs. Highlights include:

- Detention Center maintenance improvements – Phase 1 - \$1.5 million
- Iliff Avenue Improvements - \$1.5 million
- Precinct 5 Substation planning, design and land acquisition - \$1.5 million
- Inverness and County Line Road improvements - \$750,000
- Street, Roads and drainage projects - \$2.7 million
- Technology and Communication improvements - \$350,000

The Commissioners also approved an additional \$1.9 million for the Clerk and Recorder's Office to conduct the 2018 primary and general elections.

A copy of the County's budget is available for review under the Spotlight and County News sections of the home page at [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com) or <http://bit.ly/2018ACGbudget>.

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