FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Summary

Waukesha County (the County) was incorporated in January 1846, and operates in accordance with provisions set forth in Chapter 59 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The County is governed by a County Board. In April 1991, the County elected its first County Executive to coordinate and direct all administrative and management functions of County government which are not vested in other elected officials. The Executive has the authority to propose and veto legislation, and formulate the County budget and veto in whole or in part the budget adopted by the County Board. A two-thirds vote (17 members) of the Board is required to override each County Executive veto.

The County provides many functions and services to citizens, including but not limited to law enforcement, justice administration, health and human services, parks, education and cultural activities, planning, zoning, land use, environmental including water quality, recycling and general administrative services. Other activities the County provides are public works services including highway operations, mass transit, airport and fleet and facilities maintenance. In addition, golf courses, and ice arenas, a convention and meeting facility and grounds are available for citizen use.

Fund Accounting

Similar to most government entities, the County organizes its finances on the basis of funds and account groups. Each fund is considered a separate accounting entity. Operations of individual funds are accounted for with a separate set of accounts that consists of its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenue and expenditure or expenses, as appropriate. County resources are accounted for in each fund based on the purpose for which they are spent and by which spending activities are controlled. In 2002, the County implemented the new financial reporting mode required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 34. In addition to traditional fund reporting, a statement of activities and statement of net assets are prepared on an entity-wide basis.

Fund Types

Funds are normally classified according to the accounting conventions which apply to them. The County presents financial statements in its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), grouped into three broad fund categories comprised of seven fund types as indicated below. Note however, the County does not budget for fiduciary fund types **(For more detailed information, see Fund Balance Projections and Fund Descriptions within the Summary.)**

"GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS" are governed by standards developed specifically for government activities.
General Fund -The General Fund is the general operating fund of the County. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

Debt Service Funds - Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term principal, interest and related costs, but excludes debt serviced by proprietary funds.

Capital Projects Funds - Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources which are used for all acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary funds and trust fund).

In 2009, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 54, “Fund Balance Reporting and Governmenta Fund Type Definitions”, which identified additional restrictions related to the classification of a special revenue fund and related special revenue fund balance reporting. As a result of a review of the County’s special revenues for the 2011 Budget, the County has reclassified Health and Human Services and Child Support special revenue funds to the General Fund.

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE, CONT.

"PROPRIETARY FUNDS" are governed by the same accounting standards which apply to private business.

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes.

Internal Service Funds - Internal Service Funds are used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the County or to other governments on a cost reimbursement basis.

"FIDUCIARY FUNDS" are agency funds. **Note the County does not budget for these funds**.

Agency Funds - Agency Funds are used to account for assets held by the County in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments and/or other funds. Agency Funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations.

"**MAJOR FUNDS"** -The County also presents financial statements in its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), grouped by Major and Non-Major fund. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the County or meets the following criteria:

a) Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type, and
b) The same element of the individual governmental fund or enterprise fund that met the 10 percent test is at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.
c) In addition, any other governmental or proprietary fund that the County believes is particularly important to financial statement users may be reported as a major fund.

The County has four major funds; General, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Health and Dental Insurance Fund and Airport. The County's financial structure and definition of major funds are included in the Budgetary Fund Structure organizational chart on the following page.

For more details regarding Basis of Accounting, refer to the County's Year End Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR) Notes to Combined Financial Statements.