

THE COUNTY LINE



Commissioner Wayne Harris, District 1

Okaloosa County FY2011 Performance Based Budget

This year will be the first year in which the Board of County Commissioners presents the new format of Performance Based Budgets (PBB), in its entirety for each of its 16 departments. PBB provides in-depth information about how each department is funded, number of staff and key objectives, as well as accomplishments, goals and measurements for each department. I think you will find it informative and easy to follow – please let us know how you like it.

Budgets can be accessed online at your convenience, including the PBB as well as the line item, detailed budget. Additionally, the budget meetings can be viewed online as well. For a schedule of budget meetings, budget access or to view a meeting, visit www.okaloosafl.com.

At the July 27 budget meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved the current millage of 3.2899, which is the same as last year. We also decided to pull money from reserves, rather than furlough our employees. There are still tough decisions ahead as we go through the budget process. We will continue to try to provide the needed level of services in Public Safety, Essential Services and Quality of Life for all of our citizens, at the lowest possible costs.

We also realize that residents and businesses are going through tough times as well. The **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill** is impacting our local economy, just as we prepare to **welcome the 7th Special Forces Group**. View our updates on our website – there are opportunities for grants, claims and overall assistance for those impacted by the oil spill. We will weather these tough times together, and still live in the best part of the world.

Okaloosa County has been lucky, although challenged, with the events of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. We have not been impacted as badly as our neighbors to the west and **we can be thankful** for that. We have much good news as we move forward, to include the decision just announced for **59 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft** definitely coming to Eglin in the near future. We have a new **USO** at our hometown airport, Northwest Florida Regional, and will honor a historic past in August when we dedicate the **Doolittle Raiders Highway** on State Road 285, to these heroic pilots who trained at Eglin Field.

Connect with us – online, watch our meetings on Cox Channel 6 and enjoy the new informational format on “**Focus on Okaloosa**,” the county television program. If you have questions or need more information then give us a call on our 311 Citizens Information Line, or visit our web site, www.okaloosafl.com. Remember it is hurricane season and the “**first 72 are on you**.” Register for Code Red and Ready Okaloosa online.

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