



Date: December 7, 2007

Contact: Jessica Peterson
Public Relations Director
(970) 244-1640

Jessica.peterson@mesacounty.us

Mesa County's Budget to Focus on Growth and Urbanization

Board of County Commissioners adopts budget for 2008 today

The Mesa County Commissioners today approved the county budget for 2008. The approved expenditures emphasize projects to ease traffic congestion, maintain roads and promote public safety.

"Investing in our roads is one of the most important things county government does," said Craig Meis, Chairman of the Board of Mesa County Commissioners. "This budget includes approximately \$20.5 million in capital appropriations for road and bridge projects."

Other focus areas include:

- Public Safety—More than \$37.5 million in appropriations (and 370.45 full-time employees) for law enforcement activities; prosecuting criminals; detention and alternative sentencing programs; animal control services; and improvements to county roads, intersections and public safety facilities.
- Economic Development—More than \$9.5 million (and more than 27 full-time employees) to ensure a trained workforce; promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses; attract new businesses to the community; develop new businesses within the community; and assist the agricultural community.
- Land Use and Development—More than \$41 million (and 139 full-time employees) for land-use planning and code enforcement activities; maintaining and improving multi-modal transportation infrastructure; building permit services; and traffic and public transportation.

The net budget (with transfers and internal services removed) is \$143,413,207, which is a 7.8% increase from 2007. Next year, overall county revenues are projected to grow by 12.3% from the 2007 adopted budget.

This is the second year Mesa County has used an "Outcomes-Based" budgeting system, which focuses spending more directly on the results citizens want from their government. "This process is getting better each year," according to Commissioner Meis. "Our desired results are becoming more clearly understood, as is our process for ensuring that our departments and partners are accomplishing those goals with the taxpayer dollars they spend."

For more information, please visit our website:

www.mesacounty.us

(Look under Current News and Topics)

"Mesa County—Creating a community of opportunities for all residents with a focus on the future."