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## **2008 Mesa County Budget to Focus on Roads and Community Safety**

### **Keeping up with growth continues to be focal point for county budget**

Mesa County's 2008 proposed budget focuses on keeping the roads in our community safe, while continuing to protect the public through law enforcement and public safety initiatives.

"Community safety must include road safety," according to Mesa County Administrator Jon Peacock. "That's why next year's proposed budget has a particular focus on maintaining and improving our road infrastructure as our community continues to grow by leaps and bounds."

Peacock presented his recommendations for the 2008 budget to the Mesa County Board of Commissioners today. The proposed budget includes \$27 million for new road capacity and maintenance activities. It also allocates \$3 million for improvements to rural roads and dangerous intersections.

Highlighted projects include: Starting work on the viaduct to connect 29 Road to the I-70 Business Loop, Clifton area improvements (including Front Street and expansion of E Road); six new employees to focus on law enforcement activities; improvements to county roads, intersections and public safety facilities; a regional public safety training facility; workforce development; providing protection of vulnerable populations; promoting and protecting public health; and increased election costs associated with the 2008 General Presidential Election.

Starting last year, Mesa County began transitioning from a more traditional incremental budgeting process to a process called "Budgeting for Outcomes." All budget requests from county departments or partner agencies must show how they will help achieve the results that Mesa County residents want to see from their government. For 2008, those results fall into five categories:

- Well-Planned and Developed Communities—"I want plans and infrastructure that maintain quality of life in the face of rapid growth."
- Health and Success—"I want a community of where citizens of all ages have opportunities for good health and success."
- Public Safety—"I want to feel safe anytime, anywhere in Mesa County."
- Economic Vitality—"I want Mesa County to have a variety of industries that support a healthy and sustainable economy."
- Well-Managed Resources—"I want Mesa County to have well-managed public resources."

The 2008 proposed budget includes a 1% increase in the number of employees at Mesa County (which equals 11 new full time equivalent positions). Because of growth in the community, the county's revenues are projected to increase by 8% over 2007 (for a total of \$137,252,151). Net appropriations in the 2008 proposed budget show an increase of 5.6% over 2007 (for a total of \$140,569,637).

The Mesa County Commissioners will now take time to analyze the recommendations in the County Administrator's proposed budget. A final budget is expected to be approved by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

To see more details of the county's proposed budget for 2008, please visit our website:

<http://www.mesacounty.us/finance/bfo.aspx>

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