



Special Supplement for James City County Citizens

The Proposed FY 2003-2004 Budget

April/May 2003

FY 2004 Budget Work Sessions

April 10 - BOS Work Session
April 14 - BOS Work Session
April 16 - BOS Work Session
April 22 - BOS Meeting
Adoption of Budget

All meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the County Government Complex in the Building C Board Room. The meetings will be televised live on JCC TV48.

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Our Mission -

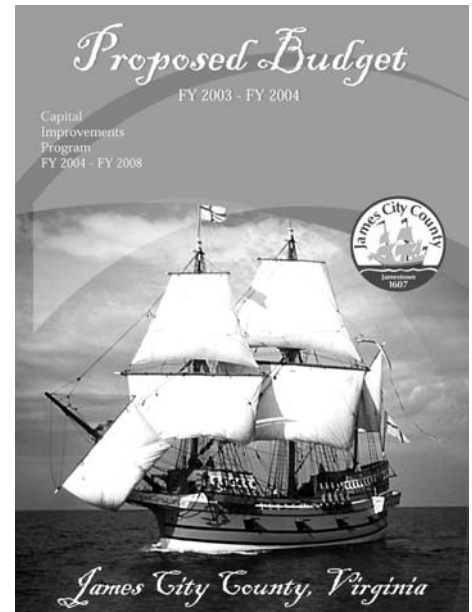
We work in partnership with all citizens to achieve a quality community.

Budget Message

I am pleased to submit to you and the citizens of James City County the financial plan for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. At this time last year, I presented to you the biennial financial plan with various revenue projections and spending plans for FY 2004. However, revenue projections in sales taxes, machinery and tools, personal property, and investment income are not expected to materialize. In addition, previous estimates for State revenues are reduced as the State continues its trend of decreasing its aid to localities.

With revenue projections \$1,333,345 less than expected, the continued uncertainty with the economy and many competing needs, difficult choices were made during the preparation of this budget. The only healthy source of revenue is taxes on real property. The active market and new construction are pushing values up and adding new improvements to the tax roles. Property owners will be paying higher taxes due to reassessments, even with no increase in the tax rate. Increasing the real estate tax rate to make up for other revenue shortfalls was not a viable option.

This budget continues a \$0.87 tax rate, operating at a \$0.85 tax rate with \$0.02 cents reserved for future debt service. The proposed General Fund budget for FY 2003-2004 totals \$113,498,385 which is a \$5,076,830 or 4.7 percent increase over the current year's budget. Of this increase, 75 percent or \$3,784,828 is allocated to the Schools for operating and debt service. County operational spending increases \$1,029,935 in FY 2004 for an increase of 2.4 percent with over half of that increase allocated to public safety.



• Sandy Wanner, County Administrator

The General Fund

This is the County's major operating fund where tax dollars are deposited.

- **Revenues - General Fund** revenues are expected to increase \$5,076,830 by growth in some areas and reductions in others. With market values prompting assessment increases in real property, revenue growth will come from real estate taxes without an increase in the real estate rate. Due to the effect that this growth has on the development divisions, the County proposes increases to Planning, Zoning, Erosion Control, and Building Permit fees.

State revenues continue to decline, a result of both State government initiatives that reduce the aid to localities and the overall economy.

The only area of growth in State revenues is the State's reimbursement to localities of the Personal Property Tax.

- **Schools**

The County proposes to continue to provide increased funding to the Williamsburg/James City County Schools of \$62,324,223, a 6.5 percent increase. 75 percent of new revenues are allocated to the Schools. The County will continue to seek opportunities to partner in non-instructional areas such as building maintenance and insurance.

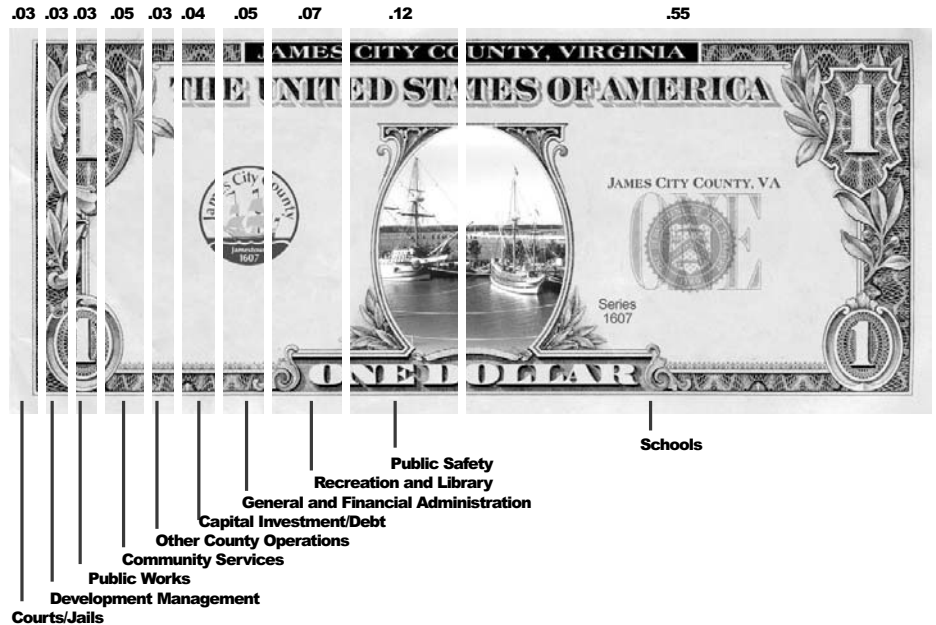
- **Operating Expenditures**

Operating departments critically reviewed their budgets and identified areas of cost savings. Some examples are:

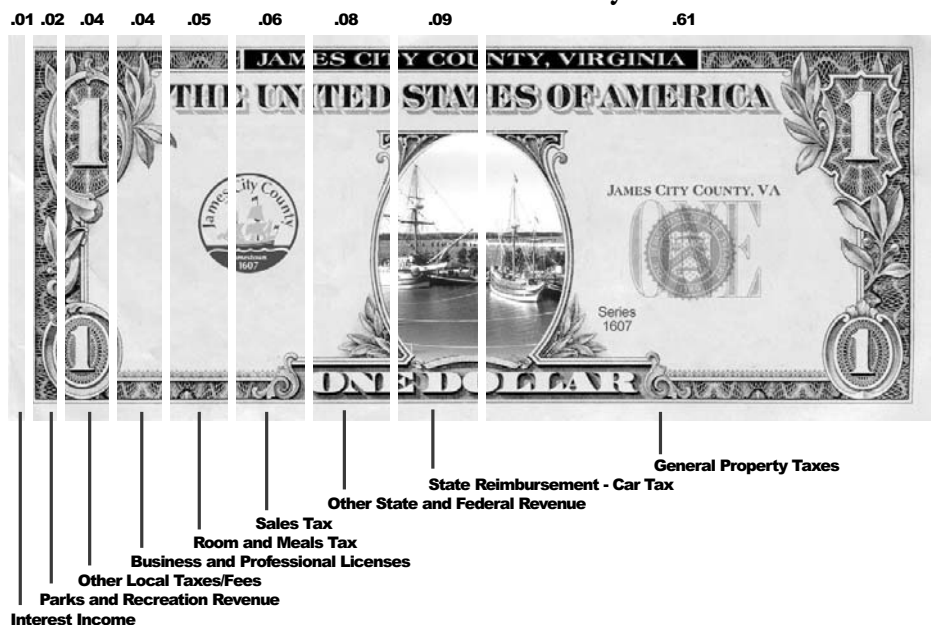
- ▼ Non-public safety vehicles' useful lives have been extended to 10 years, 120,000 miles.

FY 2004 - How each dollar in the County was spent...

Let's say all the County spends each year to provide the tax-supported services in the Operating Budget became one hundred pennies (one dollar). If that were the case, here's how the 2003-2004 pennies were spent:



Where each dollar in the County came from...



- ▼ Elimination of 15 vehicles from the overall fleet.
- ▼ Reduction of travel expenditures.

- **Employee Compensation**

Pay for performance is funded at a 3.5 percent increase based on the midpoint of the salary range. The increase to the County in health

insurance premiums is small at only 5 percent above the current fiscal year although employees will see either increased co-pays or increased premiums depending on plan selection. There is no increase in other County benefits.

Fiscal Year 2004 Budget

The proposed budget focuses on the four County goals adopted by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Strategic Management Plan.

I. Balance Service Demands with Available Resources

The County ensures that resources are managed effectively by examining services, procedures, and organizational structure. With the current fiscal constraints, balancing service demands with limited resources was challenging.

Review of the County's fees relating to development activities revealed that we were charging lower fees for services than other comparable communities. Raising those fees allows the County to balance service demands by adding one Civil Engineer, one Planner, and additional hours to a part-time Plans Reviewer position. These service enhancements are proposed to be financed by user fees and not by the general taxpayer.

Overall, in the General Fund, there is an increase of nine positions in the FY 2004 budget.

II. Enhance the Character of the Community

The County offers a high quality of life to its citizens resulting in an attractive community. Part of the attractiveness is its park facilities.

Funding is also included in this budget to continue the Purchase of Development Rights Program, water quality improvements, greenspace and greenways programs.

Where the money comes from . . .

| FY 2004 | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Fund Balance | \$ 1,178,076 |
| General Fund | \$ 1,190,000 |
| Other | \$ 435,000 |
| Total | \$ 2,803,076 |

Capital Improvements Program



Where the money goes . . .

| FY 2004 | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Recreation | \$ 740,000 |
| Community Services | \$849,076 |
| Community Development | \$1,035,000 |
| Public Safety | \$179,000 |
| Total | \$2,803,076 |

Capital Projects Fund

This fund is used to account for the cost of major, one-time infrastructure and equipment investments that result in a County asset.

The County's Capital Projects Budget is \$2,803,076 and these capital investments continue the focus on improving the quality of life in the County:

- Continue the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program to preserve open space, forested areas, and farmland from development by acquiring the development rights from the property owner. Funds are also set aside for greenspace acquisition.
- Projects include matching funds for grants for basketball courts, and a multi-use trail at District Sports Complex, repairs to the boat ramp at Chickahominy Riverfront Park, and planning and design of future greenways and trails.
- Funding is proposed for a replacement ambulance and renovations at Station 4 on Olde Towne Road.
- A new regional 800 Mhz Public Safety radio system is planned to be funded through debt issuance.
- Planning funds are proposed for a sports stadium at the District Park Sports Complex, focused on School athletic competition facility needs and a venue for community events.
- Funding is also anticipated from FY 2003 year-end balances of the School Board to finance needed improvements to school buildings.

III. Ensure Broad-Based Citizen Involvement in Decision Making

This goal is to ensure citizen access to every stage of a continuous, open, and visible communications process. Planned for FY 2004 was an additional full-time video position to enhance JCC TV48 program offerings and market County communication efforts to citizens. This position has been reevaluated and is now proposed as a part-time position with additional funding for contracted services.

IV. Promote a Healthy Community

This goal focuses on providing for a community that is not only safe, but also has robust social, environmental, and economic health.

- *Public safety* - In FY 2004, initiatives in this financial plan account for over half of the increase in County operational spending and include one additional Police Officer to help continue to provide critical services while several staff members have been called to active military duty. Three new Firefighter positions are proposed to respond to the increasing number of EMS calls. Two new Telecommunicator positions are included to handle wireless E911 calls.

- *Youth* - The County continues to implement our Youth Strategic Plan which includes increased access to services and the targeting of at-risk youth. Funding is included to continue the STRIVE program and free access to the James River Community Center.

Special Revenue Funds

Programs where the major sources of revenue are not local tax dollars are classified under these funds. Such programs include Social Services and Transit operations. An additional fund has been added to capture those grants and special projects that do not fall into any other funds.

The FY 2004 budget for Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT) maintains the improvements approved by the Board last year. These improvements include service until 8 p.m. during the non-peak season and 10 p.m. during the peak season. WAT will continue to provide transportation to the College of William and Mary and to connect to Hampton Roads Transit six times daily.

The Social Services budget increases to \$5,463,610 in FY 2004. The majority of this increase is attributed to Federal and State Funding for programs such as Title IV-E Foster Care to address the additional children who have recently entered care and to cover the increasing costs of special placements needed by a number of the County's foster children.

Proprietary Fund

The James City Service Authority, which is responsible for providing water and sewer service to certain areas of the County, has its own fund, which is supported solely by user fees. Both ongoing operations and capital investments are accounted for in this fund.

Included in the FY 2004 financial plan is an increase in sewer rates from \$2.30 per 1,000 gallons to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons in order to adequately fund maintenance and operations of the sewer fund of the Authority.

Positions proposed include:

- one Civil Engineer to assist with workload such as plans review, infrastructure upgrades, repair, and rehabilitation, and help support the construction of the Groundwater Treatment Facility and associated distribution system improvements.

- one position to oversee the construction phase of the Plant and become Plant Supervisor.

The JCSA Capital Budget is dominated by construction of the Groundwater Treatment Facility and other related facilities.

Want More?

Copies of the proposed budget are available at:

- County Complex Financial and Management Services Office
- Satellite Services Office
- Libraries
- County's web site

www.jccEgov.com

For more information, call 253-6630.

