

THE COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

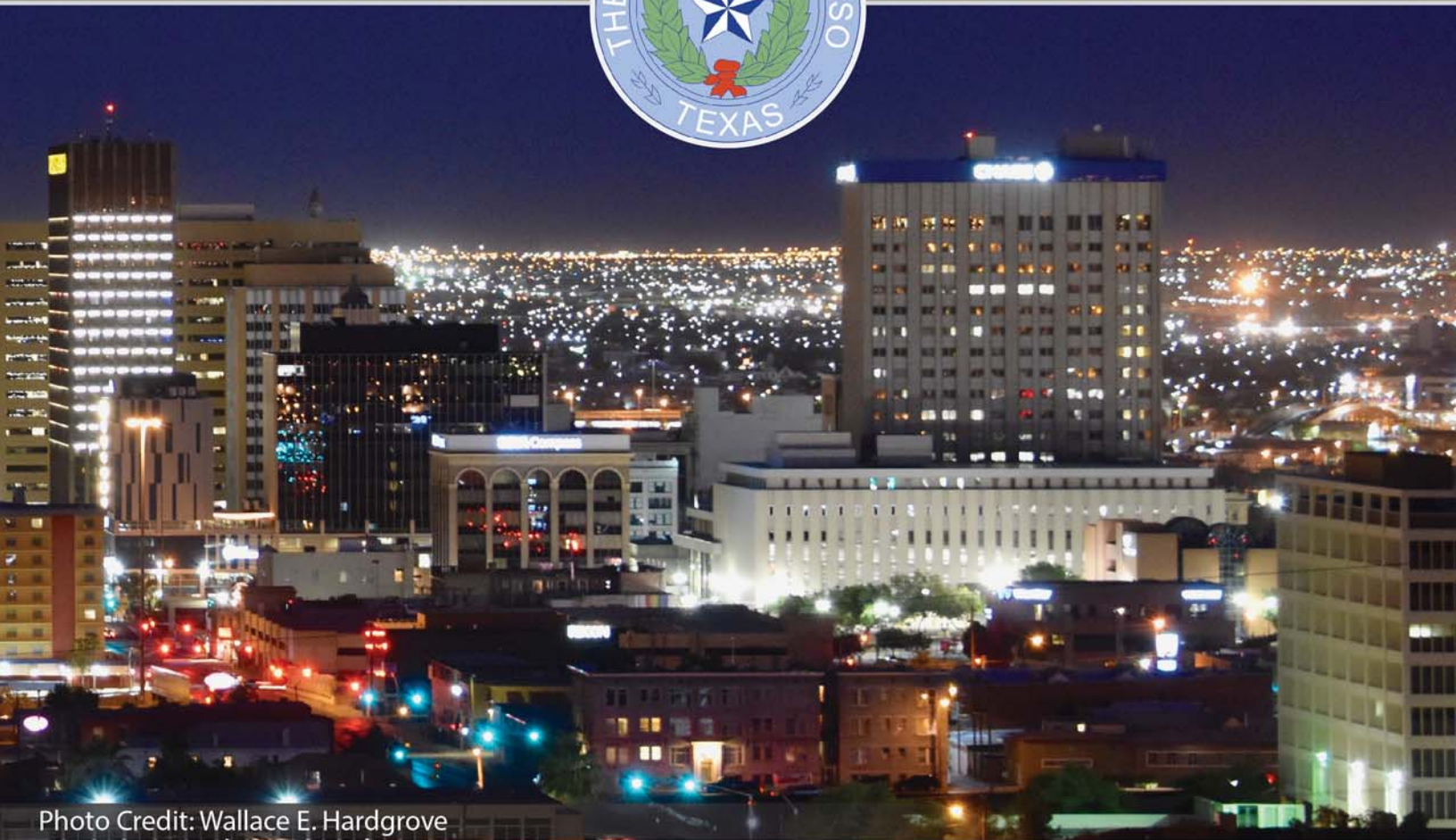


Photo Credit: Wallace E. Hardgrove

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET IN BRIEF



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**El Paso County
Texas**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

October 1, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeffrey R. Emswiler", is positioned above the title "Executive Director".

Executive Director



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to El Paso County, Texas for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.



About El Paso County

EL PASO COUNTY WAS CREATED FROM BEXAR DISTRICT IN 1849, ORGANIZED IN 1850, AND INCORPORATED IN 1871. PARTS OF EL PASO COUNTY WERE TAKEN TO FORM CULBERSON COUNTY IN 1911 AND HUDSPETH COUNTY IN 1915. EL PASO COUNTY IS ONE OF THE 254 COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. THE COUNTY WAS NAMED IN THE EARLY DAYS FOR BEING A WELL-KNOWN PASS (“PASO”) THROUGH THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. IT IS THE MOST WESTERN COUNTY IN TEXAS, AND IS ABOUT EQUIDISTANT FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA AND DENVER, COLORADO. ALSO, BORDERED ON THE EAST SIDE BY HUDSPETH COUNTY, EL PASO COUNTY IS JUST TO THE NORTH OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO, AND TOUCHES DOÑA ANA COUNTY IN NEW MEXICO. THE COUNTY IS A STRATEGIC CROSSROADS FOR CONTINENTAL NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST TRAFFIC AND SPANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF ABOUT 1,013 SQUARE MILES.

WHAT IS A COMMISSIONERS COURT

Each County in Texas has a governing body called Commissioners Court. The court is comprised of five members, a County Judge and four County Commissioners. The County Judge is elected at large to a four-year term while the other four members, the County Commissioners, are elected from a precinct to a four-year term. In large urban Counties, such as El Paso County, the County Judge has no judicial responsibilities. Instead, the El Paso County Judge is often referred to as the County's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In all Texas Counties, the County Judge presides over Commissioners' Court meetings.

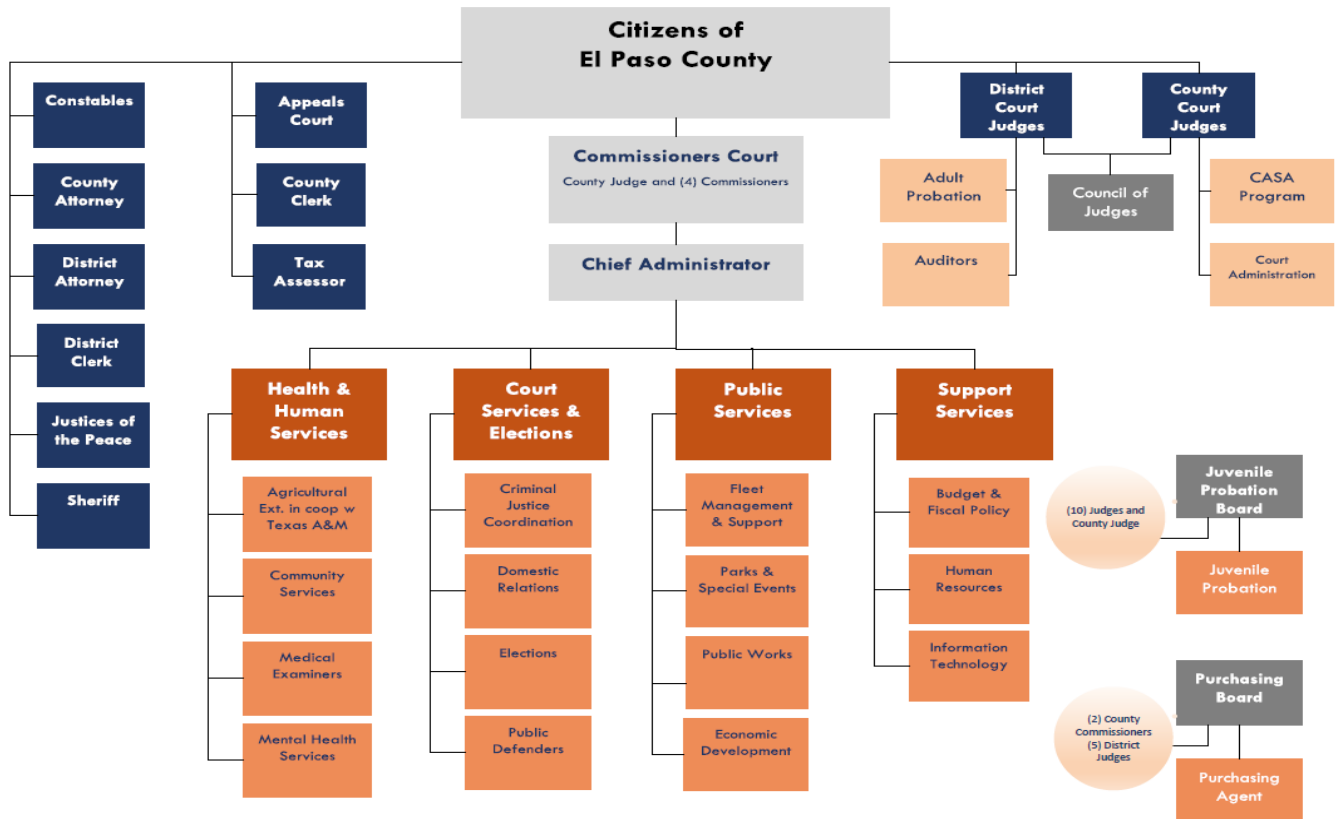
COMMISSIONERS COURT AND WHAT THEY DO

The Commissioners Court serves as the executive branch of County government. Among numerous of other constitutional and statutorily imposed duties and responsibilities, the five members of Commissioners Court have exclusive responsibility and authority over a multitude of areas in the operation and in the affairs of County government. To name a few, the Commissioners Court is responsible for approval of the County's operating budget, setting ad valorem property tax rates, and auditing and direct settlement of all claims against the County. Additionally, this body appoints certain County officials and board members. The Commissioners Court also determines when propositions to issue bonds will be submitted to the voters.




El Paso County Commissioners Court
500 E. SAN ANTONIO, STE. 301 EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

EL PASO COUNTY BUDGET IN BRIEF FISCAL YEAR 2017



Message from the Budget Executive Director

We are pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2017 published operating budget of the County of El Paso, Texas for the period of October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. The 2017 budget adopted by the County totaled \$377,467,108 a net decrease of \$72 million or 16.11 percent in comparison to the Fiscal Year 2016 adopted budget as amended. This is due to grants received in 2016 that have yet to be budgeted in 2017 as well as bond issuances that took place in 2016. El Paso County is seeing positive movement in the economy; and when combined with the actions taken by the Commissioners Court that is generating additional revenues and controlling expenditures over the past several fiscal years, the County is meeting the growing needs of our community in a fiscally responsible fashion.

This outlook is based on the premise that revenue enhancements will continue to outpace the growth in expenditures for the next few fiscal years; the ultimate goal is to propel the County's revenues and expenses into relative alignment for the future. Furthermore, future gains of budgetary alignment will be dependent upon the actions of the Commissioners Court, statutory mandates imposed by the State and the impact of economic conditions in the El Paso region. Overall the tax rate for El Paso County has remained the same at \$0.452694/\$100 of assessed property value which is lower than the effective tax rate for the past two years. El Paso County has led the way by being the first of four County entities to not increase its property taxes, including the University Medical Center and both Emergency Service District No. 1 and 2.

The County is committed to monitoring and funding its needs for Fiscal Year 2017 in alignment with its annually adopted Strategic Plan.

Wallace Hardgrove
Executive Budget Director



Vision Statement

*Building our legacy, illuminating innovation,
succeeding beyond borders.*

Mission Statement

*El Paso County Government's Mission to serve the
Public by providing Exceptional Services Exceeding
Expectations that Improves the Community – a
Progressive County Government Model.*

What are our long term goals for Fiscal Year 2016-2017?

Maintain a financially sound County Government

- Maintain financial reserves consistent with County policies and national standards
- Leverage County resources through partnerships, grants and outside resources
- Develop improved budget processes – operating and capital
- Reduce the cost of service delivery

Keep a professional, effective County Organization

- Become a “model” for other county governments
- Develop a County organization that is service, value and customer oriented, responsible and accountable

Continue keeping a strong, growing economy

- Have businesses investing in El Paso County
- Become a major “International Trade Center”
- Become a major destination: heritage, sports, ecotourism

Preserve a vibrant community

- Create a Vibrant, Alive Downtown
- Maintain parks to defined service levels
- Improve public transit service responsive to community needs

What are our challenges moving forward?

- To stabilize the property tax rate and increase county wide collection efforts to minimize future tax burden on El Paso County residents
- Monitor revenue trends closely to allow the Court to assess its position and better evaluate the impacts of its actions prior to implementation
- Plan for future County space needs that will allow the provisions of County services
- Implement technology initiatives that improve the efficiency of County departments
- Strategically replace obsolete equipment to ensure services provided are not interrupted
- Maintain fund balance to meet projected cash needs and maintain fiscal strength

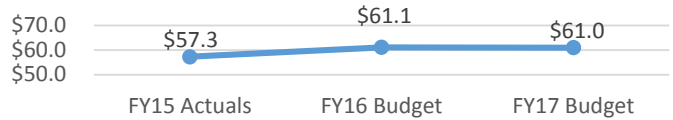


GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is used to account for the ordinary day to day operations of a governmental unit, which are financed from taxes and other general revenues.



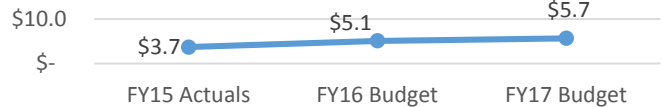
Administration of Justice



The decrease is a result of funding departments for current budgeted personnel needs.



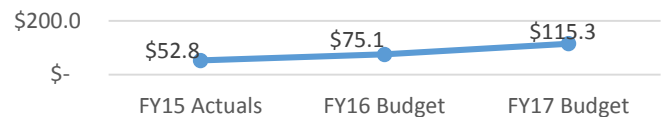
Culture and Recreation



In alignment with the County's strategic plan, the County has invested in maintaining our parks to allow for a vibrant community.



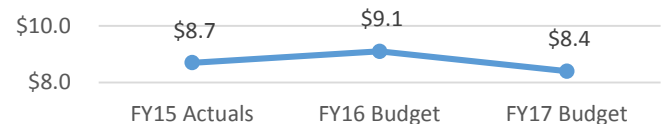
General Government



In an effort to maintain the County's financial stability, Commissioners Court approved to budget \$30 million from our reserves to be used for any unforeseen emergency or catastrophe. Funds were also set aside in the County's contingency account for a cost of living and step program for County employees as well as collective bargaining increases to be distributed during FY17. Other increases relate to our Information Technology master plan and our transportation infrastructure both top management priorities.



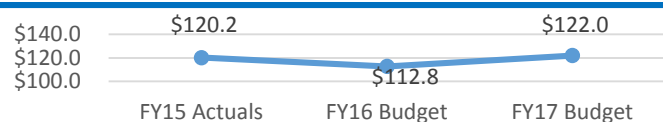
Health and Welfare



With changes implemented by the judiciary, internal procedures affecting case handling were implement that resulted in \$350,000 savings. Additionally, positions within the Mental Health Support Services were transferred to JPD to align with responsibilities assigned to the functional area of budget where services are directly provided.



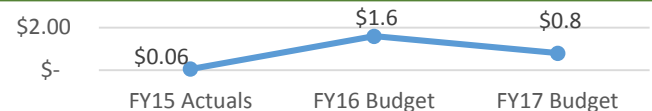
Public Safety



With the decrease in state funding to the Juvenile Probation Department, the Commissioners Court supported the necessary funding to allow for the continued support to provide services to juveniles for rehabilitation that results in decrease recidivism rates. Other public safety accounts were adjusted based on contractual agreements, one of note was for Medical and Mental Health funding which were transferred from General Government and back in to the County Jails where they were originally budgeted.



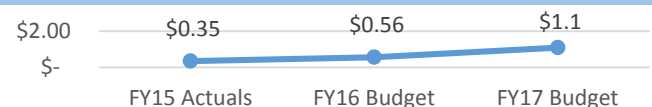
Public Works



Funding in this program has been adjusted due to a one year operational delay of the Guadalupe Tornillo Port of Entry.

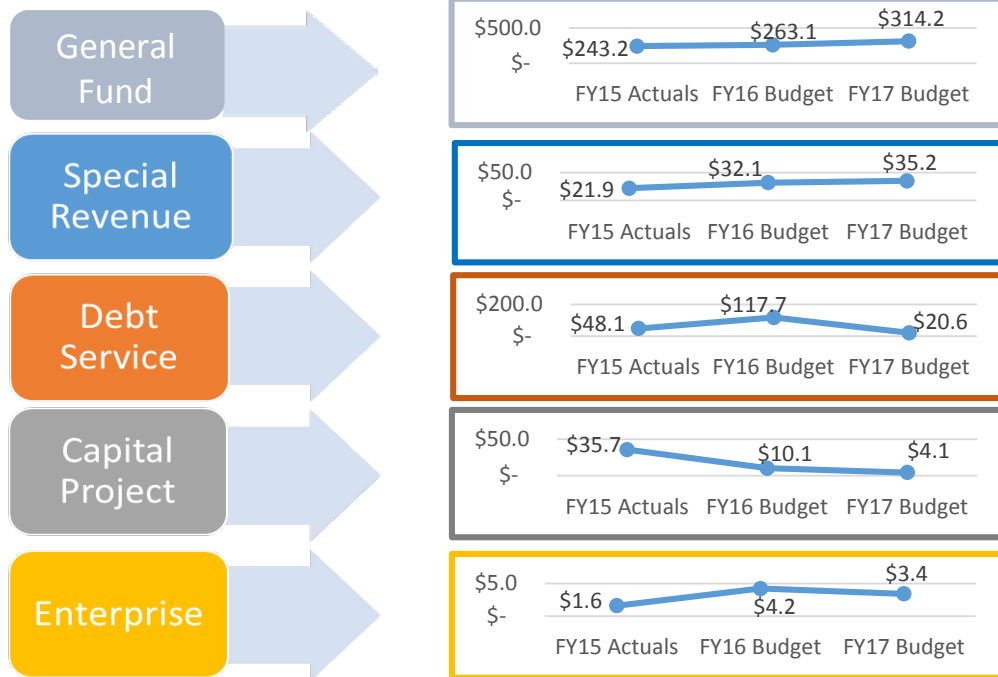


Resource Development



During fiscal year 2016 Commissioners Court approved the new Economic Development Department. The department is tasked with growing El Paso County's economy by increasing business investing in the County which can result in maintaining a level tax rate for County constituents. The department was partially funded with offsets of transferring positions from other programs.

Budget/Expense Trend by Fund



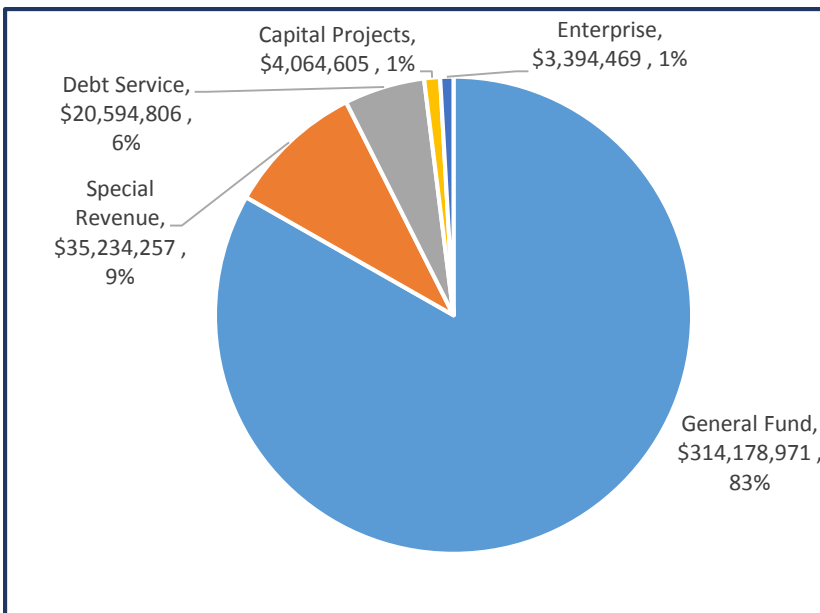
*Amounts are reflected in millions

REVENUE SOURCES BY ALL FUNDS

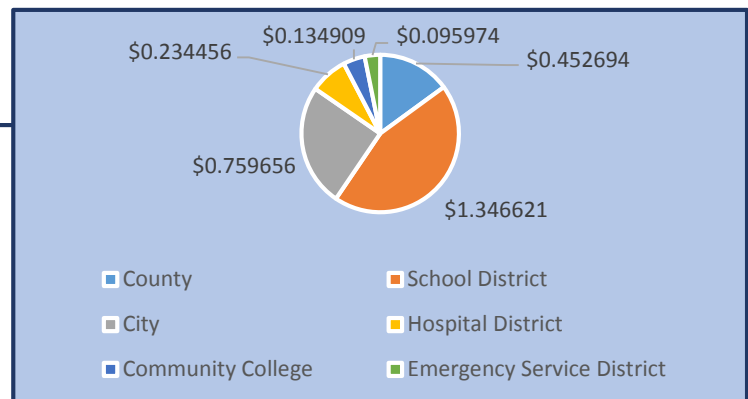
- ⇒ TAXES: \$227,548,827
- ⇒ LICENCE & PERMITS: \$257,500
- ⇒ INTERGOVERNMENTAL: \$6,780,591
- ⇒ CHARGES FOR SERVICES: \$58,001,480
- ⇒ FINES & FORFEITS: \$5,698,450
- ⇒ INTEREST: \$548,023
- ⇒ MISC. REVENUES: \$3,057,820
- ⇒ OTHER SOURCES: \$6,191,176

*Totals do not include fund balance designated to balance the budget.

El Paso County Budget by Fund FY2017 - \$377,467,108



Average 2016 Tax Rate (per \$100 assessed valuation)



AVERAGE 2016 HOME TAXES

County Taxes	\$560.10
School District	\$1,666.12
City	\$939.89
Hospital District	\$290.08
Community College	\$166.92
Emer. Svc District	\$118.74

Average Home Value: \$123,726



BUDGET PROCESS FY2018

Formulation of the Budget

In preparation for Fiscal Year 2018, regular meetings will be held with Commissioners Court throughout Fiscal Year 2017 to apprise them of any revenue projections and unanticipated differences. Upon receiving feedback and direction from the Court, the Budget Office will submit a proposed calendar of events and budgetary instructions for the ensuing fiscal year's budget preparation cycle. The Budget and Fiscal Policy Department will work with County departments in the development of their respective budgets & performance measures. The amounts budgeted in a fiscal year for expenditures from the various funds of the County may not exceed the balances in those funds plus the revenue for the fiscal year.

Tentative Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2018

February 2017

- Conduct Annual Strategic Planning Session
- Meet with Commissioners Court and get direction regarding to personnel, operating, and capital needs for the County.
- Budget departments request forms are submitted to departments.

March 2017

- Department request forms are returned to the Budget and Fiscal Policy department.

April - May 2017

- The Budget office reviews requests and commences meeting with departments to review request and go over Budget recommendations.

May - June 2017

- The Budget Office meets with the Chief Administrator to go over departmental requests and Budget Office recommendations. Departments receive notice of proposed budget and appeals are set up with the Chief Administrator.

July 2017

- Departmental request and Budget/Chief Administrator recommendations are submitted to Commissioners Court.

August - September 2017

- Hearings with Commissioners Court and adoption of the Property Tax Rate takes place.

October 2017

- Proposed and Adopted Budgets are filed with County Clerk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing, we hope this summary document has provided insight into El Paso County government operations. We sincerely thank the citizens, County Judge and Commissioners, other elected and appointed officials and County employees for their roles and support in developing this summary document.

The following individuals are to be commended for their participation in the preparation of the 2017 Annual Operating Budget, which would not have been possible without their dedication, meticulous hard work, and professionalism.

Wallace Hardgrove
Budget Executive Director

Gaby Ferro
Deputy Budget Officer

Frank Rios
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Budget Analyst Intermediate

Yvonne Aranda
Budget Analyst Intermediate



Mackenzie McLaughlin
Budget Analyst Intermediate

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