

IV. DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)

H. Other Post-retirement Health Care Benefits

The County provides certain health care and life insurance benefits, under county policy, for all active employees upon retirement that meet one of the following requirements: age 60 with 8 or more years of service, at least 30 years of service at any age, or a combined age plus service of at least 75.

A retiree may choose to receive health care coverage through the County's self-insured plan if retiring prior to age 65 or the retiree may choose to obtain coverage through the CountyChoice Silver plan offered by Texas Association of Counties if retiring at age 65 or older. As noted, it is the retiree's option to choose either based upon age and other qualifying requirements when retirement occurs. The retiree is free to choose an independent plan for coverage. To offset the cost of health care coverage, the County provides a \$200 monthly stipend to qualified retirees. Spouses are not eligible for the stipend unless they are also qualified County retirees. The stipend applies to both pre-65 and post-65 retirees. The stipend benefit is subject to approval by the Commissioners' Court on an annual basis. The stipend benefit has been offered to qualified retirees since 2002, although amounts have changed over time.

Expenses for post-retirement health care benefits are recognized on a pay-as-you-go basis. During the year, post-retirement health care benefits paid by the County were \$93,866. The County does not produce separately issued financial statements for the benefit plan.

I. Post-retirement Health Care Benefits

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

The County's annual other postemployment benefit (OPEB) cost (expense) is calculated based on the annual required contribution of the employer (ARC), an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and to amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed 30 years. The County's annual OPEB cost for the current year and the related information is listed below:

Annual Required Contribution (ARC)	\$ 520,000
Interest on Net OPEB Obligation	33,196
Adjustment to the ARC	(13,000)
Annual OPEB Cost	540,196
Employer Contributions with Interest	(93,866)
Increase (Decrease) in Net OPEB Obligation	446,330
Net OPEB Obligation, beginning of year	<u>737,688</u>
Net OPEB Obligation, end of year	<u>\$ 1,184,018</u>

(continued)