

Rockwall County's growth has been fueled by its location on I-30 and close proximity to Dallas, Texas, a major urban metroplex. The County's economic base is home to many industries, including manufacturing, healthcare and higher education.

Rockwall County has two major hospitals, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital and Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Lake Pointe. The County houses many after hour emergency medical facilities as well.

Long-Term Financial Planning

Rockwall County continues to address mobility improvements necessary to adapt to the County's growth. The Commissioners Court has been an integral part of a countywide consortium of all the cities within the county and the County itself to complete a prioritized list of road projects. . In 2004 (\$17,250,000) and in 2008 (\$100,000,000) bond programs were overwhelmingly approved by our voters. To date, over \$85 million has been issued and projects are in the works to remedy road congestion and mobility.

Rockwall County addresses safety for our citizens and our law enforcement officers and is currently purchasing and implementing a new P25 Radio Interoperability Network. The network will provide close to 100% coverage of the entire county and link all police agencies on the same network. The County will fund the purchase of the equipment and the cities will utilize the same network and fund their ongoing maintenance costs.

Relevant Financial Policies

The Rockwall County Commissioners Court ensures financial stability within the county government by adopting conservative and responsible policies that allow the County to meet the necessary needs of the county but to also continue to increase capacity and grow fund balance.

The County's Debt Management Policy was adopted to ensure that debt financing required to provide the capital needed for equipment and infrastructure improvements will be undertaken only after careful consideration of the following:

- the need is a priority,
- the impact of the funding requirements on the debt capacity,
- the requirement for major infrastructure needs have been communicated to the taxpaying public,
- the forecast amortization of the debt does not disrupt the relationship between the maintenance & operation and debt service portions of the overall tax rate,
- the obligations have been timed for issuance and delivery so that proceeds are spent in an efficient manner and,
- the factors are taken into consideration as to arbitrage and,
- that the existence of a climate favorable to the issuance of long term and/or short term debt.

The County's Financial Reserve Policy was adopted as a policy to maintain an appropriate yet conservative level of fund balance. The County's governing body has set this policy to achieve and maintain a reserve balance providing for four to six months of its annual budgeted expenditures. The use of available funds in the reserve shall be determined by deliberative action of the Commissioners Court based upon consideration of the current and economic environment at the time the expenditure is established, the impact of the projected operating and capital expenditures on the cash needs of the County, the acknowledgement of the difference between operating and capital needs, the methods of alternative