

Renovation Fund, and the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Fund. The budget is prepared by fund, function (e.g., public safety) and department (e.g., County Sheriff). The budget must show as definitively as possible the purpose of each expenditure and the amount of money to be spent. Rockwall County's budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. The totals for Personnel Services, Operating Costs, Other Services and Charges, Travel & Training, Capital Outlay and Debt Service are considered budget line items and over-expenditures of these line items will not occur.

In preparing the budget, the County Judge and County Auditor estimate the revenue to be derived from taxes that will be levied and collected in the succeeding fiscal year and shall include that revenue in the estimate of funds available to cover the proposed budget.

When the County Judge has completed the preparation of the budget, the Judge shall file a copy of the proposed draft budget with the County Clerk. The copy shall be available for inspection by any person. The proposed draft budget shall also be available on the county's internet website.

The Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing to allow any taxpayer of the County to attend and participate in the hearing. The Commissioners Court may make any changes in the proposed budget that it considers warranted by law and required in the best interest of the taxpayers. The Commissioners Court may levy taxes only in accordance with the budget. After final approval of the budget, the County Auditor shall file the budget with the County Clerk. Expenditures of county funds will be made only in strict compliance with the budget, unless an emergency is authorized. The Commissioners Court may authorize an emergency expenditure as an amendment to the original budget only in a case of grave public necessity to meet an unusual and unforeseen condition that could not have been included in the original budget through the use of reasonably diligent thought and attention. If the Court amends the original budget to meet an emergency, the Court files a copy of its order amending the budget with the County Clerk. The clerk attaches the copy to the original budget.

The Commissioners Court, by order, may transfer an amount budgeted for one item to another budgeted item or department. However, the legal level of control is the department level within a fund, meaning that the level at which charges to appropriations may not legally exceed appropriations.

State law requires counties to adopt a budget before they adopt a tax rate. Chapter 26 of the Property Tax Code requires taxing units to comply with truth in taxation laws in setting the tax rates. This law has two purposes: to make the taxpayers more knowledgeable about tax rate proposals and, in certain cases, to allow taxpayers to roll back or limit a tax increase.

### *Factors Affecting Financial Condition*

The information presented in the financial statements is perhaps best understood when it is considered from the broader perspective of the specific environment within which Rockwall County operates.

*Local Economy.* Rockwall County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state, the county includes the cities of Rockwall, Heath, Fate, McLendon-Chisholm, and portions of the cities of Royse City, Rowlett and Wylie. Two of the cities located within Rockwall County are highlighted by the North Texas Council of Governments Top 12 Cities for Estimated Population Growth 2015-2016: McLendon-Chisholm at 19.5% growth and Fate at 7.9% growth. Our county is family-friendly with a small-town atmosphere. It is the perfect place to grow business, raise your family and enjoy unrivaled quality of life.