



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

James W. Rasins, C.P.A., C.F.E.
County Auditor

Peter W. Balgemann, C.G.A.P.
Chief Deputy Auditor

421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
(630) 407-6075
FAX: (630) 407-6076
www.dupageco.org/auditor

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DU PAGE COUNTY AUDITOR

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COUNTY AUDITOR ISSUES FINANCIAL REPORT

A report on DuPage County finances issued by County Auditor Jim Rasins disclosed that the County's combined total expenditures exceeded revenues by \$4.7 million during the 2005 fiscal year. The Auditor noted that this reflected the impact of the County spending bond proceeds received in prior years on capital projects during 2005. Revenues collected during the 2005 fiscal year totaled \$330.0 million, while expenditures totaled \$334.7 million.

Rasins stated that the Corporate Fund, which finances the majority of the County's day-to-day operations, had an operating surplus for the second consecutive year. During 2005, the Corporate Fund posted revenues of \$134.9 million as compared to expenditures of \$131.2 million, resulting in a surplus of \$3.7 million. In comparing 2004 results to 2005, the Auditor noted that Fund revenues increased slightly, while expenditures increased by \$2.9 million.

The Auditor explained that the small increase in Corporate Fund revenues was actually the net result of increases in sales taxes, the County portion of state income tax, fees, and earnings in 2005, offset by decreases in the amounts reported in fiscal year 2005 from other revenue sources.

During 2005, sales tax collections and income tax receipts rose by \$2.0 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, while various fees and earnings collected increased by a net amount of \$618,000 over 2004 amounts.

These amounts were offset by decreases in various other amounts classified as intergovernmental revenue. This included the \$2.3 million receipt in 2004 of a grant for the purchase of voting equipment that did not recur in fiscal year 2005. The Auditor also noted that the amount received from the federal government to house prisoners in the County Jail fell by \$1.3 million from the 2004 amount.

“Despite these decreases from the prior year, intergovernmental revenue totaled \$32.3 million, and continued to be a significant source of revenue in the Corporate Fund,” Rasins noted.

The Auditor added that nearly half of the intergovernmental revenue was made up of the receipt of the third of five annual \$15 million payments received from the DuPage Water Commission.

An analysis of revenue received on a department basis determined that the amount collected by the County Treasurer, State’s Attorney, and Clerk of the Circuit Court surpassed the 2004 figure by a combined total of \$3.2 million; while, collections by the County Recorder lagged the 2004 amount by \$430,000.

Further, Rasins explained that the establishment of a separate Economic Development and Planning Fund and Historical Museum Fund also contributed to a decrease of approximately \$1.8 million in Corporate Fund revenue. Previously, the revenue received in these departments was recorded in the Corporate Fund.

On the opposite side of the ledger, Auditor Rasins attributed the net \$2.9 million rise in Corporate Fund expenditures to jumps in personnel-related costs, capital spending, and debt service payments.

Increased spending for wages and overtime led to a \$1.3 million increase in personnel-related costs in 2005 over 2004. Additional analyses identified expenditures for building improvements and the replacement of Sheriff patrol vehicles as the major components of the total \$975,000 jump in capital outlay costs between 2004 and 2005.

Rasins noted that the Corporate Fund payments for debt service, or principal and interest, increased by \$956,000 over the 2004 level. The boost resulted from the end of a temporary reduction in the amount needed from the Corporate Fund for debt service payments in 2003 and 2004 that resulted from the refinancing of an outstanding bond issue in 2002.

The Auditor also reported that the Corporate Fund year-end cash and investment balance increased by 5.1% over the prior year's level. This followed an increase in the balance at the end of 2004.

The Auditor's financial report presents information for sixty-nine operating Funds used by the County. This includes amounts for highway construction, drainage projects, building construction, the Convalescent Center, County-owned water and sewage treatment facilities, and various human services programs provided to residents.

The County Auditor's 130-plus page Quarterly Report can be viewed on the internet at www.dupageco.org/auditor/. Copies are also available for inspection at college and public libraries throughout DuPage County and at the Office of the County Auditor in Wheaton.