

May 7, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

AUDITOR REPORTS COUNTY SPENDING JUMP

According to DuPage County Auditor Jim Rasins, County Corporate Fund spending rose by 38% during the first quarter of 2003 over the same period in 2002. The Auditor's 120-plus page Quarterly Financial Report indicated that \$35.3 million was spent during the first three months of fiscal 2003 from the County's main operating fund. This represented an increase of \$9.7 million over the previous year.

Rasins determined that the spending jump was attributed in large part to operating subsidies paid to other County government funds, and payments made to other units of local government in DuPage County.

"During the first quarter of the year, the Corporate Fund disbursed \$4.4 million to assist other County funds in meeting related operating costs," the Auditor said.

These subsidy payments were included in the annual spending plan for the Corporate Fund adopted by the County Board. The expenditures included \$1.8 million for the fund that pays pension-related costs, \$1.2 million for County Convalescent Center

operations, \$750,000 to pay employer social security tax amounts, and \$675,000 for Health Department operations.

Rasins noted that an additional \$3.7 million was paid from the Corporate Fund to County municipalities and townships as a result of the elimination of the County's Solid Waste Fund.

On the inflow side, the Corporate Fund posted \$32.3 million in revenue during the first three months of 2003, representing a slight increase of \$387,000 over the prior year.

The 2003 revenue figure included \$6.0 million from one-time, non-recurring sources. The Auditor disclosed that the Fund collected \$3.2 million from the sale of the County's intermediate processing facility for recyclables, and \$2.8 million in various reimbursements from the Local Gas Tax Fund.

The Report also highlighted the financial activity in over 60 other funds used to finance County operations. Rasins pointed out that the Stormwater Management Fund received a \$5.5 million reimbursement from the Local Gasoline Tax Fund. This nearly offset the \$5.7 million increase in expenditures from the stormwater-related fund, attributed to stormwater bond debt service costs.

The Auditor also reported that 2003 expenditures from the Local Gasoline Tax Fund rose by 60% from first quarter 2002 amounts.

"The \$4.2 million increase in spending over last year was traced to reimbursements paid to the Corporate Fund and Stormwater Management Fund for prior period costs incurred. During the first quarter of 2003, a total of \$8.3 million was reimbursed to other funds from the Local Gas Tax Fund, as compared with \$4.2 million during 2002," he said.

The Gas Tax Fund also recorded a \$14 million increase in revenue over last year. This stemmed from \$13.9 million received from the proceeds of Motor Fuel Tax Bonds as a reimbursement for Fund amounts previously spent on bond-related road projects.

The Auditor's report showed that the revenue received by the County-run Convalescent Center during the first three months of 2003 totaled \$7.2 million, as compared to \$7.7 million during 2002. Rasins noted that the 2003 amount included a \$1.2 million subsidy received from the Corporate Fund.

"Without the subsidy, revenue received by the Center would have fallen by \$1.7 million," he explained.

A comparison of the revenue amounts received during the first quarter of 2003 versus 2002 showed that the amount received for patient care at the Center fell by \$1.4 million. This was attributed to a slow-down in the timing of amounts received from the State for public aid patients in the Center.

In an effort provide the public with easy access to information about County finances, Rasins has made his entire Quarterly Financial Report available on the County Auditor internet website at www.dupageco.org/auditor/.

Copies of the Report are available from the Office of the County Auditor in Wheaton, and can also be examined at public and college libraries throughout the County. Rasins has also published a guide to understanding the Report, which appears on the internet and accompanies library copies of the Report.