

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Accrual Basis of Accounting** – The recording of expenditures and revenues when transactions actually occur rather than when they are paid.
- Action Plan** – Represents the actions necessary to improve or maintain the program performance under a specific balanced scorecard perspective.
- Administrative Charges** – Allocates the cost of general administrative departments that are required to manage the County and provide support to all funds.
- Adopted Budget** – The annual budget document as approved by the Budget Committee and then adopted by the Board of Commissioners before the beginning of each fiscal year.
- Ad Valorem Tax** – Tax based on the assessed valuation of property. Also known as property taxes.
- Agency and Trust Funds** – Accounts for assets received and held for the County under specific trust instructions.
- Appropriation** – An expenditure level approved by the Agency Board allocating funds for a specific purpose.
- Approved Budget** – The budget that had been approved by the Budget Committee.
- Assessed Valuation** – A valuation set upon real estate or other property by the County Assessor and the State as a basis for levying taxes. This amount is multiplied by the tax rate to determine the total amount of property taxes to be collected.
- Audit** – The annual review and appraisal of the County’s accounts and fiscal affairs conducted by an accountant under contract, or the Secretary of State, in accordance with Oregon budget law (ORS 297.425).
- Audit Report** – A report in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State made by an auditor expressing an opinion about the propriety of a local government’s financial statements, and compliance with requirements, orders, and regulations.
- Basis of Budgeting** – A measurement focus that differs from the basis of accounting in the treatment of beginning fund balances, debt service, vacation benefits, and capital outlay in enterprise funds.
- Beginning Fund Balance** – A revenue classification indicating those financial resources which, because they were not expended in one fiscal year, are available in the following fiscal year.
- Benchmarking** – A comparison of the service provided with other counties providing a like service, a national standard, or an accepted best practice. Used as one element of performance measures.
- Bond** – A written promise to pay a specified sum of money (face value or principal amount) at a specified date or dates in the future [maturity date(s)], together with periodic interest at a specified rate.

Budget – A policy statement detailing the County’s plan for the accomplishment of stated goals within a particular fiscal year, including estimates of required expenditures and anticipated revenues to carry out stated goals.

Budget Message – A written explanation of the budget and the local government’s financial priorities. It is prepared and presented by the executive office or chairperson of the governing body.

Budgeting for Outcomes – A system driven by goals and performance, to provide information that compares budgeting, planning and outputs/results.

Capital Outlay – An expenditure category encompassing all material and property expenditures in excess of \$5,000. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses incurred in the purchase of land; the purchase, improvement, or repair of County facilities; or the acquisition or replacement of County equipment.

Capital Improvement Plan – An annual, updated plan of capital expenditures for public facilities and infrastructure (buildings, streets, etc.) with estimated costs, sources of funding and timing of work over a period of time.

Capital Project – Those activities resulting in the acquisition or improvement of major capital items such as land, buildings, and County facilities.

Capital Reserve Fund – A fund established to carry dedicated funds for a specific future capital expenditure into the next fiscal year.

Category – A major division of the program budget that contains programs and activities. Categories are also known as functional areas.

Contingency – An expenditure classification for those funds reserved to fulfill unanticipated demands and expenses.

Contractual Services – Expenses that are usually incurred by entering into a formal agreement or contract with another party. Expenses in this category can include repairs, professional fees or services.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) – A non-profit service that provides advocates for abused children involved in the justice system.

Current Financial Resources Measurement Focus – A measurement focus that recognizes the net affect of transactions on current financial resources by recording accruals for revenue and expenditure transactions occurring by year’s end.

Debt Service – Payment of interest and principal on an obligation resulting from the issuance of bonds.

Debt Service Fund – A fund established to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest.

Department Request – The annual budgetary alternative prepared by Department Directors indicating an appropriate, justified, and needed level of service for their department together with associated expenditures and revenues.

Depreciation – The charging of a fixed asset as an expense over the estimated service life of that asset.

Encumbrance – An obligation chargeable to an appropriation and for which part of the appropriation is reserved.

Enterprise Funds – Funds that are financed and operate in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Expenditures – A fund liability incurred for operation, capital outlay, or other requirements during a budgetary period.

Fiduciary - A program set up in the general fund and the central services fund to act as a bank account to receive funds and make disbursements that cannot be easily attributed to a specific operating program.

Fiscal Year – A 12-month period to which the annual operating budget applies and at the end of which a government determines its financial position and the results of its operation. The Jackson County fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) – One FTE is the equivalent of one employee who works 40 hours per week on average. A .5 FTE equals one employee who averages 20 hours per week.

Fund – A fiscal entity consisting of a self-balancing set of accounts that are segregated from other funds for the purpose of fulfilling specific activities or attaining specific objectives in accordance with regulations, restrictions, or limitations. A fund is also an available quantity of financial resources.

Fund Balance – The balance remaining in a fund after expenditures have been subtracted from revenues.

Fund Type – One of nine fund types, which include: general, special revenue, debt service, capital projects, special assessment, enterprise, internal service, trust and agency, and reserve.

General Fund – A fund established for the purpose of accounting for all financial resources and liabilities of the County except those required to be accounted for in other funds by special regulation, restrictions, or limitations.

General Obligation Bonds – This type of bond is backed by the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the government.

Governmental Funds – Funds that support governmental-type activities.

Grants – Contributions or gifts of cash or other assets from another government or agency to be used or expended for a specified purpose or activity.

Hourly Employee – A County employee who fills a temporary or short-term position. Such employees provide contingency staffing for County operations during peak workloads, or to address temporary staffing needs. Hourly employees are paid on a per-hour basis and receive prorated benefits.

Interdepartmental Charges – An expenditure and revenue classification for those expended charged to one department by another within the same fund for materials or equipment used for services rendered.

Internal Service Funds – Accounts for services, materials, and administrative support that are charged to other County departments.

Infrastructure – Facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community depend, such as streets, waterlines, etc.

Levy – The amount of ad valorem tax certified by a local government for the support of governmental activities.

Lockbox – A term used for the process of paying bills at a remote location. The money is counted, receipted, deposited, and then transferred electronically to the intended entity. This process is used to collect property tax payments.

Materials and Services – An expenditure category encompassing major non-capital, non-personnel expenditures. These include expenses for travel and training, operations, data processing, property, equipment, and contracted services.

Measurement Focus – The accounting for and reporting of the financial operations of funds.

Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting – A basis of accounting where revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available and expenditures are recognized at a time when liability is incurred pursuant to appropriation authority.

Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) – A designation denoting miscellaneous items such as grants and reimbursements.

O & C Revenues – Revenues received by the County from the Federal government for timber harvested on Federal government land formerly belonging to the Oregon and California (O & C) Railroad. This is the primary source of revenue for Jackson County's general fund. Beginning in 1994-1995, O & C funds were no longer linked to the timber harvest and were guaranteed by the Federal government for five years.

Operating Budget – That portion of the Jackson County annual budget that applies to non-capital projects, non-capital outlays, transfers, contingency, and ending fund balance; that is, the combined categories of personal services and materials and services.

Ordinance – A formal legislative enactment by the Board of Commissioners. If it is not in conflict with any higher form of law, such as a State statute or constitutional provision, it has the full force and effect of law within the boundaries of the County.

Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) – Rules established by a given State department who have authority granted by an ORS to operate a specific function. For example: the Oregon Department of Revenue (ODR) has authority to provide oversight of county assessors. ODR, therefore, writes administrative rules to interpret those ORS which govern collection of property taxes.

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) – The set of laws established by a vote of the people or the State legislature.

Other Requirements – An expenditure classification encompassing all miscellaneous expenditures that cannot be appropriately classified as personal services, materials and services, or capital outlay. This includes transfers to other funds and contingencies.

Outcome – A result; the mathematical expression of the effect on customers, clients, the environment, or infrastructure that reflect the purpose of a program.

Personal Services – An expenditure classification encompassing all expenditures relating to County employees. This includes union and non-union labor costs, employee benefits, and payroll tax expenses.

Program – A group of related activities performed by one or more organized units for the purpose of accomplishing a function for which the County is responsible (sub-unit or categories or functional areas).

Program Budget – A method of budgeting whereby money is allocated to the functions or activities of the County rather than to specific items of cost. Services are broken down into identifiable service programs or performance units. A unit can be a department, a division, or a workgroup. Each program has an identifiable service or output and objectives.

Projected – An estimation of revenues and expenditures based on past trends, current economic conditions and future financial forecasts.

Proposed Budget – The financial and operative plan prepared by the Budget Officer. It is submitted to the public and the Budget Committee for review.

Public Law 106-393 (PL 106-393) – On October 30, 2000, Congress passed Public Law 106-393 (the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, commonly known as "Payments to States") in order to offset the effect of decreased revenues available to counties from declining timber harvests on Federal lands. PL 106-393 sunset after fiscal year 2006-2007.

Publication – Public notice given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the local government.

Required to Balance – A revenue classification indicating funds that have been transferred into one department or fund from another in order to eliminate any difference between self-generated revenues and anticipated expenditures.

Reserve – A portion of a fund balance which has been legally segregated for a specific use.

Resolution – A formal order of a governing body; of lower legal status than an ordinance.

Resources – Total amounts available for appropriation including estimated revenues, fund transfers and beginning fund balances.

Revenue – Income for the fiscal year including transfers and excluding proceeds from the sale of bonds and notes. The major categories of revenue include local taxes, state shared revenues, fees and charges, interest on investments, and fines and forfeitures.

Revenue Bond – A written bond backed by funds (revenue) generated by a specific fund.

Revised Budget – A budget alternative indicating all changes made to the adopted budget as the result of budget adjustments and the supplemental budget process.

S.B. 587 – A Senate bill which requires certain building, electrical, and plumbing inspection response times. It also allows fees sufficient to fund 100 percent of the costs of those programs.

Special Revenue Funds – Funds used to account for receipts from revenue sources that are earmarked for special projects.

Supplemental Budget – A financial plan prepared to meet unexpected needs or to spend revenues not anticipated with the regular budget was adopted. It cannot be used to authorize a tax.

System Development Charge – A fee paid at the time of construction which goes to projects which will mitigate the impact on a specific service. The County has two SDCs: one to increase the park facilities and to other for road development.

Target Budget – Desirable expenditure levels provided to department in developing the coming year's recommended budget. Based on prior year's adopted budget, projected revenues, and reserve requirements.

Transfers – Legally authorized intra-County transfers of appropriations from one County fund to another County fund. Revenue and expenditures are accounted for in both funds.

Tax Levy – The total amount eligible to be raised by general property taxes.

Tax Rate – The amount of tax levied for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The tax rate is multiplied by the assessed valuation to determine the total amount.

Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance – An expenditure classification for those funds not appropriated for any purpose and reserved for ensuing fiscal years. This may include specific reserves for buildings or equipment or may be generally reserved funds for no specific purpose.

User Fees – The payment of a fee for direct receipt of a public service by the party benefitting from the service.

Volunteers – An unpaid County worker who provides services to the County as a public service, or as a personal interest. Volunteers typically do short-term projects or donate a small number of hours a month.