

# Okaloosa County News Release

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## Okaloosa County Tentative Budget Available Online

Okaloosa County has begun the **2015-16 budget cycle** and a tentative budget can be viewed on the county website at [www.okaloosaf.com](http://www.okaloosaf.com) or by following this link:

<http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/bcc/budget>. County Administrator John Hofstad presented a detailed overview of the tentative budget on July 15, to the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners, beginning the first of several constitutional offices and department budget presentations ahead. In order to hear Mr. Hofstad's overview of the entire budget, follow this link: <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/bcc/budget>. These meetings are videotaped and streamed live from the County website; however, technical difficulties during the July 15 workshop resulted in posting this portion on audio. Citizens can also read the Budget Policy Letter online to get a good overview of the County's \$331,192,706 budget.

"Based upon the initial budget presented by our County Administrator, I am confident that the final budget adopted by the Commission will hold the line on tax rates and still allow the County to provide critical services, improve financial oversight and make continued gains toward improving aging infrastructure and facilities," stated Commission Chairman Nathan Boyles. "While budgeting is always a challenge when you maintain one of the lowest overall tax rates in the state, I am confident that we have all the ingredients necessary to adopt a strong, balanced and fiscally conservative budget."

To gain understanding on how tax dollars are spent, Okaloosa County Commissioners invite citizens to get involved in the budget process by attending or watching the budget reviews by departments and constitutional offices. "This is a tentative budget in which we invite input from our citizens, as well as commissioners, as we go through the budget process," said County Administrator John Hofstad. "Please call or email us if you have any questions."

Performance Based Budgets will be included on the website as soon as they become available, which gives a "snapshot," of annual accomplishments of the departments within Okaloosa County, along with a budget analysis. The Okaloosa County budget will be finalized at the final public hearings on September 3 and 15. Feel free to call or email the 311 Citizens Information Line for more information.

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