



For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

Table of Contents

Message from Auditor Mingo	1
Government Finance Officers Association Awards	2
Economic Outlook and Benchmarks	3
County Financial Position	4
Financial Analysis	5
Dollars In	6
Dollars Out	7
County Programs	8
Taxes	9
Major Initiatives	. 10
Long-term Activity	. 11
County Spending	. 12
County Government Working for You	. 13



About the Cover

The front cover and inside front cover pictures are courtesy of the Franklin County Animal Shelter & Adoption Center. The new center was opened in October, 2011. When it opened, it was one of the largest shelters in the Midwest.

The brick mural on the entry wall was designed by Bowerston Shale, of Newark, Ohio. The wall represents the many services the shelter provides including: rescuing stray dogs and reuniting them with their owners; making sure the dogs adopted are healthy before going home with a new family; and providing compassionate care and veterinary services.

Message from Auditor Mingo

As Franklin County's Chief Financial Officer, I remain committed to providing you with ready access to reliable information. The Annual Financial Report is intended to demonstrate governmental accountability to the citizens of Franklin County in a format that is readable and easy to understand.

The Franklin County Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, presents an overview of the County's finances. The PAFR focuses on governmental activities, and is not as detailed as our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR contains full financial statements and note disclosures for all activities, funds, and component units, prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The information presented in the PAFR has been derived from the 2011 and 2010 CAFRs, which were audited by the Ohio Auditor of State, with both receiving unqualified opinions. The schedules shown in the PAFR are different from the GAAP financial statements because accounting data has been summarized and combined, and business-type activities, component units, proprietary and fiduciary funds have been excluded.



I encourage you to explore our website at www.FranklinCountyAuditor.com, where you will find the PAFR and CAFR and a wide array of county data including the County's financial position, sources of revenue, a breakdown of the County's spending, debt and a sample tax bill along with forms and applications. To obtain a copy of the PAFR or CAFR please visit the website. To obtain a copy on CD or in printed form, contact the Franklin County Auditor's Office, Fiscal Services Division at (614) 525-7348, or write us at 373 South High Street, 21st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6310. You may also e-mail me or my staff with your comments concerning this report, or any other aspect of the operations of the County Auditor's Office.

Sincerely,

Clarence E. Mingo, II Franklin County Auditor

Clarence

Clarence Mingo @Franklin County Ohio.gov

Government Finance Officers Association Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Franklin County, Ohio, for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Franklin County has received a Popular Award for the last sixteen years (fiscal years ended 1995-2010). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.

Franklin County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended 2010, from which information on pages 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 has been drawn, was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

PRESENTED TO

Franklin County
Ohio

for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2010



Linda C. Landson President Jeffrey L. Esser

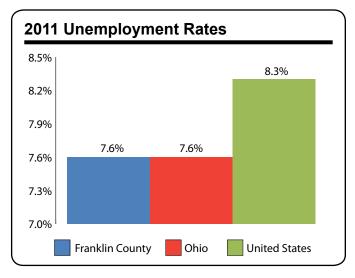
A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. Franklin County has received a Certificate of Achievement for the last twenty-eight years (fiscal years ended 1983-2010). We believe our CAFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement program requirements and we are submitting our CAFR for the current year to the GFOA.

Economic Outlook & Benchmarks

The County is located in central Ohio, within 500 miles of half the nation's population. Columbus, the largest city in the County, serves as the state capital and the county seat, and is home to The Ohio State University. Central Ohio's economy is broadbased. The County's largest employers represent government, education, retail trade, finance and health care.

The diversity of business sectors helps the region weather economic fluctuations. The County's average unemployment rate decreased from 8.5% in 2010 to 7.6% in 2011. The County's unemployment rate matched the state and continued to be below the national average.

Nationwide Insurance and Limited Brands have located their headquarters and home offices in Franklin County. Other large employers include JPMorgan Chase Bank, OhioHealth, Kroger Company, and McDonald's Corp.



A factor contributing to the lower unemployment rate is the County's well-educated workforce. Based on 2010 educational attainment data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, 90.9% of those age 25 and older graduated from high school and 41.8% have completed four or more years of college.

The total value of new construction was \$438 million in 2011. In comparison, 2010 total new construction was \$753 million. The appraisal cycle is six years, with an update performed at the mid-point. The reappraisal performed in 2011 resulted in a decline in real property values.

County Comparisons

One way of evaluating a government's performance is to benchmark it against its' peers. The following charts compare key ratios for five of Ohio's metropolitan counties. The data used for calculations were taken from each county's most recently available CAFR, focusing on governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of net assets and statement of activities.

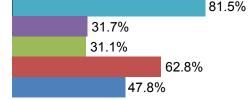
Statistics

County	Seat	Population
Franklin	Columbus	1,168,018
Cuyahoga	Cleveland	1,283,925
Hamilton	Cincinnati	855,062
Montgomery	Dayton	535,153
Lucas	Toledo	441,815

specialism graphs

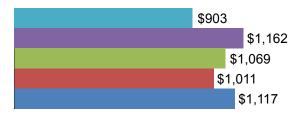
This ratio illustrates each county's ability to support operations without considering operating revenue.

Net Assets as a Percentage of Expenses



Revenues per Capita*

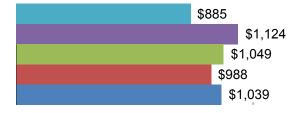
This indicator is derived by dividing the county's population into total revenues of the governmental activities.



*per capita - by or for each individual person

Expenses per Capita*

This indicator is derived by dividing the county's population into total expenses of the governmental activities.



County Financial Position

The County's financial statements distinguish **governmental activities** that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues from **business-type activities** that cover their costs through user fees and charges and from **component units** for which the County is financially accountable. This report contains only information related to the County's governmental activities. Please refer to the County's 2011 CAFR for information on business-type activities and component units.

Assets provide financial benefits to the County. Cash and investments are comprised of cash, investments and demand deposits, whether held in the pool managed by the County Treasurer or in outside bank accounts. Property taxes receivable represents delinquent, real and tangible personal property and public utility taxes outstanding as of the last settlement date (net of allowances for uncollectible amounts) and real property and public utility taxes that were measurable at year-end and for which there is an enforceable claim. Capital assets are land, buildings and improvements, roads, bridges, equipment and construction in progress, and are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

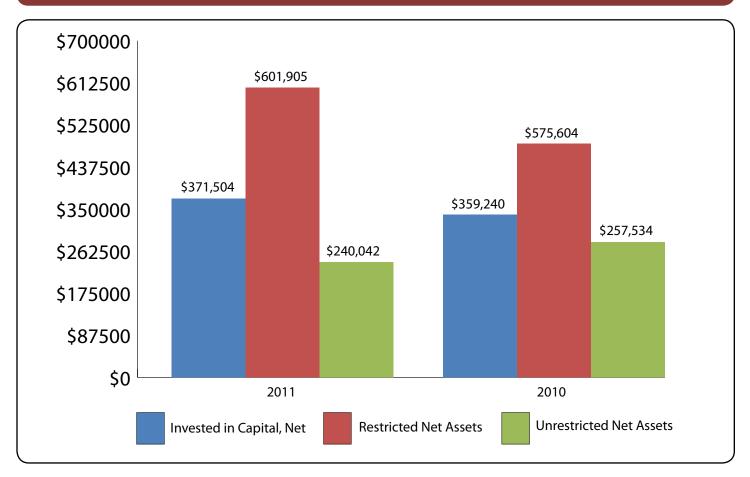
Liabilities place a financial burden on the County. **Unearned revenue** represents property taxes levied to finance 2012 operations, and grants received before eligibility requirements have been met. **Long-term debt** represents bonds, notes and loans that are being repaid over a period of years as well as payments under capital leases. **Other long-term liabilities** include compensated absences and workers' compensation.

Net Assets Governmental Activities (Amounts in 000's)

	2011	2010	% Change from 2010
Cash and investments	\$ 786,628	\$ 765,416	2.8 %
Property taxes receivable, net	431,585	449,545	(4.0) %
Other assets	182,224	232,486	(21.6) %
Capital assets, net	695,244	651,831	6.7 %
Total assets	2,095,681	2,099,278	(0.2) %
Accounts payable and other liabilities	63,374	81,182	(21.9) %
Unearned revenue	425,168	442,358	(3.9) %
Long-term debt	345,604	336,566	2.7 %
Other long-term liabilities	48,084	46,794	2.8 %
Total liabilities	882,230	906,900	(2.7) %
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	371,504	359,240	3.4 %
Restricted	601,905	575,604	4.6 %
Unrestricted	240,042	257,534	(6.8) %
Total net assets	\$ 1,213,451	\$ 1,192,378	1.8 %

Financial Analysis





Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. **Invested in capital assets, net of related debt**, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net assets are reported as **restricted** when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. **Unrestricted net assets** may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens, employees and creditors.

When reviewed over time, net assets may serve as a useful indicator of the County's financial position. The County's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$1.213 billion in governmental activities at the close of 2011. Compared with 2010, net assets increased by \$21.1 million or 1.8%.

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt - A large portion of the net assets (\$371.5 million or 30.6%) reflects investment in capital assets less accumulated depreciation and any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. Although the investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the money needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. See page 11 for more detailed information about the long-term debt of the county.

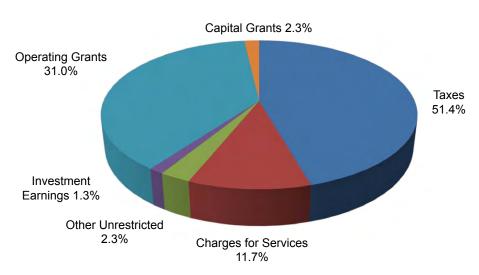
Restricted net assets - An additional portion of the net assets (\$601.9 million or 49.6%) represents resources that are subject to external or legal restrictions on how they may be used. There was an increase of \$26.3 million in restricted net assets due primarily to recent tax levies and in grants received.

Unrestricted net assets - The remaining balance of net assets (\$240 million or 19.8%) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations.

Dollars In...

The revenues presented here are reported as governmental activities in the 2011 CAFR's government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. The County also receives revenue from non-exchange transactions, such as taxes and grants, in which the County receives value without directly giving equal value in return. Sales tax revenue is recognized in the year in which the taxable sale occurs. Revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenues from grants are recognized when all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. The pie chart depicts revenues by source as a percent of the total revenue. The table summarizes revenues by source, and shows the increases (decreases) in relation to the prior year.





(Amounts in 000's)						
	2011	2010	\$ Change from 2010	% Change from 2010		
Taxes	\$ 541,650	\$ 531,351	\$ 10,299	2.0 %		
Operating grants	326,878	444,629	(117,751)	(26.5) %		
Charges for services	123,374	122,662	712	0.6 %		
Investment earnings	13,555	15,695	(2,140)	(13.6) %		
Capital grants	24,152	20,512	3,640	17.8 %		
Unrestricted grants and other revenue	24,690	31,080	(6,390)	(20.6) %		
	\$ 1,054,299	\$ 1,165,929	\$ (111,630)	(9.6) %		

Tax revenue increased due to higher sales tax receipts.

Operating grants decreased for the County by \$117.7 million, but that is somewhat misleading as the decrease was primarily due to major human service programs being shifted to the State of Ohio and the reduction in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) monies.

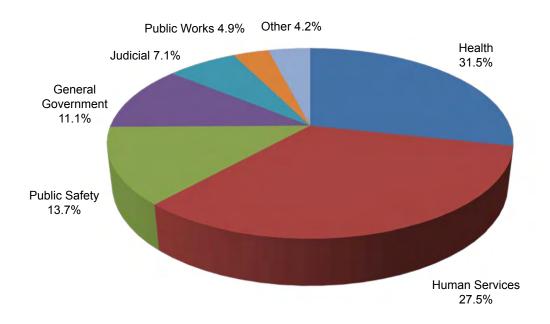
Charges for services increased by \$0.7 million due to a combination of rate and activity increases.

Capital grants increased by \$3.6 million, primarily due to a higher level of federal funding for infrastructure projects.

Dollars Out...

The expenses shown are those of the County's governmental activities. Expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred. The pie chart below depicts expenses by function as a percent of total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2011. Those functions that individually represent less than three percent of total expenses have been combined as "Other". These include conservation and recreation, community development, debt service and intergovernmental grants. The table shows expenses by function, and the increases (decreases) in relation to prior year amounts.

Expenses - Governmental Activities \$1,033,278,000



(Amounts in 000's)								
		2011		2010		Change om 2010	% Change from 2010	
Health	\$	325,615	\$	358,987	\$	(33,372)	(9.	.3) %
Human Services		283,898		306,335		(22,437)	(7.	.3)%
Public Safety		142,092		142,036		56	0.	.4 %
General Government		114,514		119,360		(4,846)	(4.	.0) %
Judicial		73,641		72,112		1,529	2.	.1 %
Public Works		50,278		37,187		13,091	35.	.2 %
Other		43,240		43,006		234	8.	.8 %
Total	\$ 1	,033,278	\$	1,079,023	\$	(45,745)	(4.	.2)%

There was a decrease in **health and human service** expenses with a corresponding decrease in operating grants and contributions.

The increase in **public works** expenditures can be attributed to higher spending for infrastructure projects.

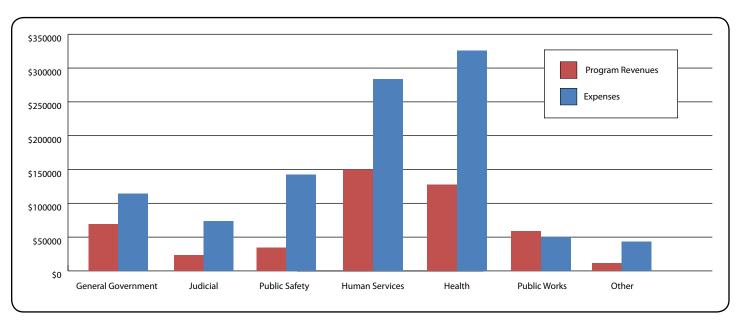
Expenses for public safety, judicial, and general government were maintained at levels relatively similar to the prior year.

County Programs

The County provides many services to its citizens including tax collection and distribution, civil and criminal justice systems, public safety, health assistance, human services, and road and bridge maintenance. The County also operates two public parking garages and several water supply and sewage treatment systems.

The chart below presents a comparison between direct expense and program revenues for each function of the County's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (1) charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. All other revenues are considered general revenues of the County. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the County.

Expenses and Program Revenues – Governmental Activities (Amounts in 000's)



Operating and capital grants received from other governmental entities are often restricted for specific purposes. During 2011, the County recorded \$326.9 million in operating grants and \$24.2 million in capital grants; combined, this is 33.3% of total governmental revenues. The major recipients of operating grants were the Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Board (\$56.0 million) the Board of Developmental Disabilities (\$61.8 million), Public Assistance (\$55.7 million), and the Children Services Board (\$69.4 million).

Direct charges to users of governmental services, another type of program revenue, made up \$123.4 million or 11.7% of total governmental revenues. These charges include fees, fines, forfeitures, licenses and permits.

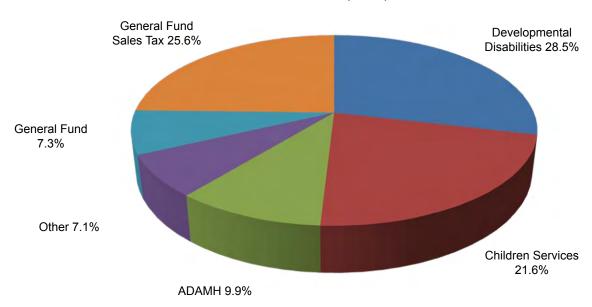
On the expense side, the largest activity in 2011 was health, accounting for \$325.6 million or 31.5% of the total expenses for governmental activities. The major providers of health activities are Board of Developmental Disabilities and the ADAMH Board. The human services program accounted for \$283.9 million or 27.5% of total governmental expenses.

The general government function represents activities related to the governing body as well as activities that directly support other County programs that serve the County's residents. In 2011, the total general government expenses were \$114.5 million or 11.1% of the County's total governmental expenses.

Taxes

During 2011, the General Fund and County agencies received \$541.7 million in tax revenues. This pie chart shows the distribution of property and sales taxes to the various County agencies. Only the General Fund receives sales tax. Please note that there is no County income tax. The General Fund is the primary operation fund of the County and is available for any purpose as permitted by state law.

Taxes \$541,650,000



Property tax revenues account for \$403.2 million or 38.2% of total revenues for governmental activities. Property tax revenues increased by \$2.7 million compared to calendar year 2010. A contributing factor was in 2009 voters approved a 3.1 mill tax levy for the Children Services Board; 2010 was the first year of collection. The major recipients of property tax revenues are the Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Children Services Board, the ADAMH Board, and the General Fund. Another major component of general revenues is sales tax, which totaled \$138.5 million. This reflects an increase of \$7.6 million compared to the prior year. During 2011, the 6.75% sales tax collected by the State on sales made in Franklin County was split as follows: 5.5% for the State of Ohio; .75% for the County General Fund; and .5% for the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA).

Real Estate Taxes* on a \$100,000 Owner-Occupied Home or Business City of Columbus / Columbus School District

Tax Recipient	Home	Business
Columbus City Schools	\$ 1,327.65	\$ 1,919.02
Board of Developmental Disabilities	193.78	236.32
Children Services	148.47	173.33
City of Columbus	96.16	109.90
ADAMH Board	67.38	77.00
County General Fund	45.02	51.45
Columbus Public Library	85.75	98.00
Office on Aging	27.56	31.50
Zoological Park	21.24	25.59
Metro Parks	22.97	26.25
Total	\$ 2,035.98	\$ 2,748.36

^{*}Taxes based on 2011 rates, to be distributed in 2012

Major Initiatives



The County has undertaken projects for construction of key community assets, including:

Completion of a new Common Pleas Courthouse which accommodates long-term growth, improves building safety and security, and better meets the court's technological and operating needs. In addition, the County has also constructed tunnel and pedestrian concourse improvements, which will improve way-finding, access, and security within the Government Center. The combined project cost, including land, tunnel and concourse improvements was approximately \$140 million.

Completion of a new animal shelter that replaced a thirty-two year old facility and expanded shelter and adoption capacity.

The total project cost for the new animal shelter was approximately \$18 /

million.

Renovation of the Hall of Justice, which was vacated upon completion of the new Common Pleas Courthouse. The first phase of the project totaling \$7.5 million consists primarily of renovations to the core, shell, and infrastructure of the facility. The total project cost for the renovation of the Hall of Justice is expected to be approximately \$64 million.

Several infrastructure improvements, the most major of which is the widening and reconstruction of portions of Clime Road. The total spent or committed to be spent on the Clime Road project is in excess of \$19 million.

Other infrastructure improvements undertaken by the County include the design and construction of a water treatment plant as well as several wastewater system improvements. These infrastructure improvements include: the Timberlake wastewater system; the Brown Road East sanitary sewer system; the Mon-E-Bak sanitary sewer system; the Holton Park sanitary sewer system; the Taylor Estates sanitary sewer system; and the completion of the Timberlake water treatment plant. The total spent or committed on these water or wastewater improvements is nearly \$20 million.



As the result of continued community relations presence throughout 2011, the Franklin County Auditor's Office saw a 21% increase in the number of homeowners who qualified for the Homestead Tax Exemption over the prior calendar year. The Homestead Exemption provides a reduction in property taxes to any senior or disabled citizen, regardless of income, on the dwelling that is that individual's principal place of residence and up to one acre of land of which an eligible individual is an owner. The reduction is equal to the taxes that would otherwise be charged on up to \$25,000 of the market value of an eligible taxpayer's homestead. For example, if a home's market value is \$100,000, the home would be taxed as if it were worth \$75,000. More than 56,000 Franklin County homeowners are taking advantage of the Homestead Tax Exemption. Those residents saved a combined \$29.1 million in 2011. The average savings to someone who qualifies for this break is about \$562.

Long-term Activity

Capital assets - The amount reported in the financial statements for governmental activity capital assets increased from \$651.8 to \$695.2 million, a net increase of \$43.4 million in calendar year 2011. The increase was primarily in the buildings and improvements line with major additions being the new court building, government center improvements, energy conservation measures, the new animal shelter, and infrastructure projects. The investment in capital assets for governmental activities at December 31, 2011 and 2010, net of accumulated depreciation, is shown in the table to the right.

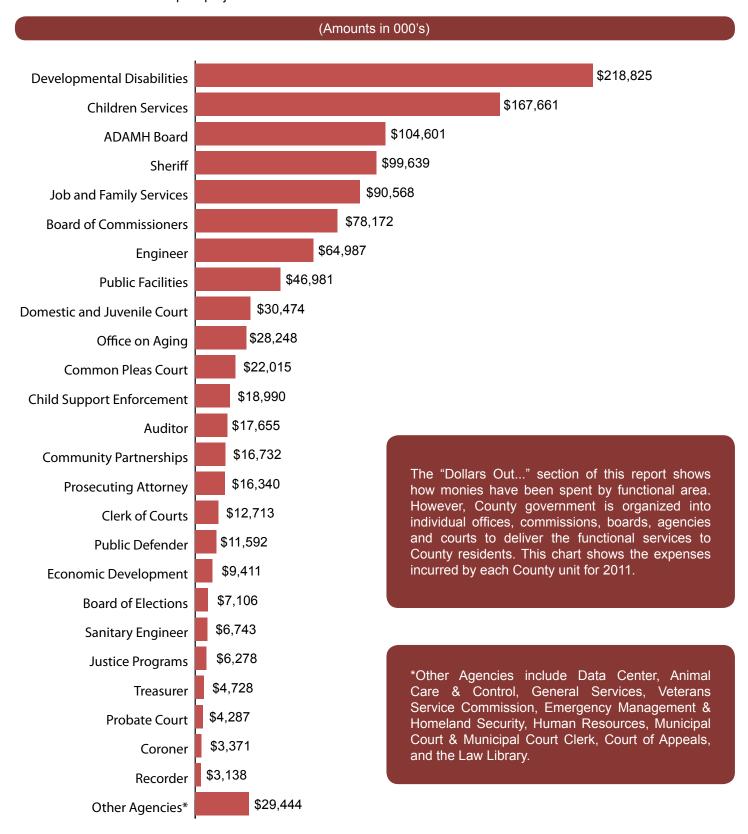
(Amounts in 000's)						
	2011			2010		
Land	\$	57,275		\$	57,068	
Buildings and improvements		429,218			228,528	
Infrastructure		136,007			136,040	
Machinery and equipment		32,973			35,149	
Construction in progress		39,771			195,046	
	\$	695,244		\$	651,831	

Long-term debt - During 2011, a taxable special obligation bond anticipation note was issued in the amount of \$12 million for the purpose of retiring notes payable from non-tax revenues. Since 1993, the County has enjoyed a "triple A" credit rating, the highest rating possible, which was reaffirmed by rating agencies in February 2011. All of the County's debt is unvoted and within legal debt limitations. The table below shows the changes in long-term debt serviced by governmental activities during 2011:

	(Amounts in 00	0's)		
	Beginning	Additions	Reductions	Ending
Series 2003 Refunding	\$ 14,765	\$ -	\$ (6,575)	\$ 8,190
Series 2005 Road Improvements	2,790	-	(505)	2,285
Series 2005 Children Services Building	9,040	-	(425)	8,615
Series 2005 Refunding	6,590	-	(965)	5,625
Series 2007 Road Improvements	3,940	-	(470)	3,470
Series 2007 Courthouse Project	109,320	-	(1,290)	108,030
Series 2007 Animal Shelter Project	9,220	-	(45)	9,175
Series 2009 Government Center	18,625	-	(790)	17,835
Series 2009 Refunding	40,620	-	(660)	39,960
Series 2010 Energy Conservation Bonds	22,755	-	-	22,755
Series 2010 Animal Shelter	10,075	-	(12)	10,063
Series 2010 Government Center	10,075	-	(13)	10,062
Series 2010-2 Road Improvements	3,015	-	(120)	2,895
Series 2010-2 Hall of Justice	7,570	-	-	7,570
Bonds serviced by others	11,405	-	(1,375)	10,030
General obligation bonds and notes total	279,805	-	(13,245)	266,560
Stadium Facility Project Bonds and Notes	38,865	12,000	(12,670)	38,195
OPWC and ODOD loans	5,635	2,095	(362)	7,368
Special obligation bonds, notes and loans total	44,500	14,095	(13,032)	45,563
Jnamortized bond premiums	13,082	-	(1,370)	11,712
Jnamortized deferred charges	(1,711)	-	301	(1,410)
Capital leases	890	22,774	(485)	23,179
Total	\$ 336,566	\$ 36,869	\$ (27,831)	\$ 345,604

County Spending

This information was taken from the statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the governmental funds as presented in the County's 2011 CAFR. The amount shown for the Board of Commissioners includes debt service. Public Facilities includes capital projects.



County Government Working For You

County Agencies, Boards, Offices	Elected Officials as of December 31, 2011			
ADAMH Board(614) 224-1057	Auditor	Clarence E. Mingo, II		
Office on Aging	Board of Commissioners	Paula Brooks		
Animal Care & Control		Marilyn Brown John O'Grady		
Auditor	Clerk of Courts	Maryellen O'Shaughnessy		
	Coroner	Jan M. Gorniak, D.O.		
Board of Commissioners (614) 525-3322	Engineer	Dean C. Ringle, P.E., P.S.		
Board of Elections	Prosecuting Attorney	Ron O'Brien		
Child Support Enforcement (614) 525-3275	Recorder	Daphne Hawk		
Children Services (614) 275-2571	Sheriff	Zach Scott		
Clerk of Courts	Treasurer	Edward Leonard		
Coroner	Court of Appeals	Susan Brown		
Data Center	Tenth District (614) 525-3580	Peggy Bryant John A. Connor		
Developmental Disabilities (614) 475-6440	(0.17) 0.20	Julia L. Dorrian		
Economic Development		Judith L. French William A. Klatt		
& Planning		Lisa L. Sadler		
Emergency Management		G. Gary Tyack		
	Common Pleas Court General Division	Laurel A. Beatty John F. Bender		
Engineer	(614) 525-3453	John P. Bessey		
Fleet Management		David E. Cain		
Homeland Security &		Kimberly Cocroft David W. Fais		
Justice Programs (614) 525-5577		Richard A. Frye		
Human Resources		Daniel T. Hogan Michael J. Holbrook		
Job & Family Services (614) 233-2000		Timothy S. Horton		
Law Library		Julie M. Lynch		
Municipal Court Clerk (614) 645-8006		Stephen L. McIntosh Guy L. Reece II		
Prosecuting Attorney		Charles A. Schneider		
Public Defender		Mark Serrott Patrick E. Sheeran		
Public Facilities Management (614) 525-3800		Richard S. Sheward		
Purchasing	Common Pleas Court	Kim A. Browne		
	Domestic Relations/ Juvenile Division	Christopher J. Geer Elizabeth Gill		
Recorder	(614) 525-6320	Jim Mason		
Sanitary Engineer		Dana S. Preisse		
Sheriff	Common Pleas Court Probate Division	Robert G. Montgomery		
Treasurer	(614) 525-3894			
Veterans Service Commission (614) 525-2500				



373 South High Street - 21st Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-6310

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