BASIS OF BUDGETING AND FUND STRUCTURE

BASIS OF BUDGETING

Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Governmental and Fiduciary Funds utilize the modified accrual basis of accounting under which revenues and related assets are recorded when measurable and available to finance operations during the year. Proprietary Funds use the accrual basis of accounting which recognizes revenues when earned and expenses when incurred. Annual operating budgets are adopted for all Governmental Funds except for the Capital Projects Fund in which effective budgetary control is achieved on a project-by-project basis when funding sources become available. All appropriations lapse at year-end, except those for the Capital Projects Fund. It is the intention of the Board of Supervisors that appropriations for capital projects continue until completion of the project.

FUND STRUCTURE

The budget of the County is organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues and expenditures, or expenses, as appropriate. The various funds are grouped as follows:

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the County are financed. These include:

General Fund

The General Fund accounts for all revenue and expenditures of the County which are not accounted for in the other funds. Revenues are primarily derived from general property taxes, local sales taxes, license and permit fees, and revenues received from the State for educational and other purposes. A significant part of General Fund revenues is used to maintain and operate the general government, however, a portion is also transferred to other funds principally to fund debt service requirements and capital projects. Expenditures include, among other things, those for general government, education, public safety, highways and streets, recreation, parks, and culture.

Special Revenue Fund

Special Revenue Funds account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes. These funds account for the resources obtained and used relating to State and Federal Grants, Social Services programs, Mental Health and Developmental Services programs, the Utility Department's Solid Waste and Street Light operations and the School Cafeteria.

Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the accumulation of financial resources for the payment of interest and principal on all governmental fund long-term debt except for accrued compensated absences and capital lease obligations which are paid by the fund incurring such expenditures. Debt Service Fund resources are derived from transfers from the General Fund.

Capital Projects Fund

The Capital Projects Fund accounts for all general government and school system capital projects which are financed through a combination of proceeds from general obligation bonds and operating transfers from the General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, and Internal Service Fund.

Basis of Budgeting and Fund Structure (continued)

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

Proprietary funds account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the County is that the cost of providing services to the general public be financed or recovered through charges to users of such services. These funds include:

Enterprise Funds

These funds account for the operation, maintenance and construction of the County-owned water and wastewater (sewer) utility, and the County-owned golf course.

Internal Service Funds

An Internal Service Fund accounts for the financing of goods or services provided by one department to other departments of the government on a cost-reimbursement basis. The Internal Service Fund budgets for the County are: the Central Automotive Maintenance operations, the Technology Replacement Fund, the Risk Management Fund, and the Healthcare Fund.

FIDUCIARY FUND

Fiduciary funds are used if the government has a fiduciary or custodial responsibility for assets.

James River Juvenile Detention Center Agency Fund

The Agency Fund accounts for assets held by the County for the James River Juvenile Detention Commission. All revenue and expenditures related to operations are accounted for in separate sub-funds, operating, debt, and capital. Resources for operations are primarily derived from a transfer from the General Fund and payments from the State and other localities.

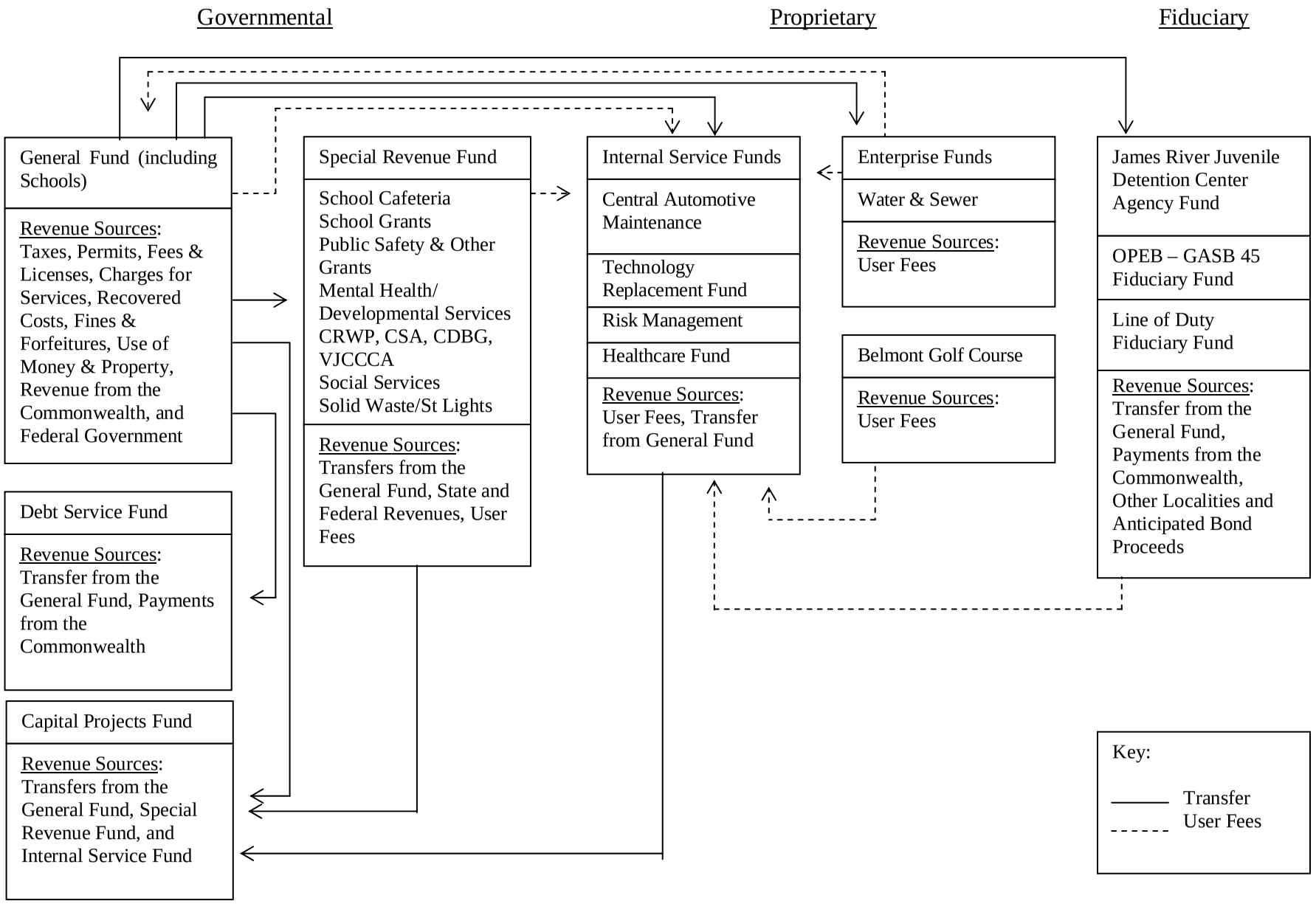
Other Post Employee Benefits Fiduciary Fund (GASB 45)

The Fiduciary Fund accounts for assets held by the County for Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB-GASB 45 costs). Resources for these cost requirements are derived from a transfer from the General Fund.

Line of Duty

The Line of Duty Fiduciary Fund was created due to a mandate from the Commonwealth of Virginia that requires localities to pay the cost of this State approved benefit. Resources for this cost requirement are derived from a transfer to OPEB-GASB 45 Fiduciary Fund.

STRUCTURE OF COUNTY FUNDS



HENRICO COUNTY'S BUDGET PROCESS

THE BUDGET CYCLE

Aug 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sep 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Oct 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

August through September

Revenue Estimates

Henrico County's budget process begins with an estimate of revenues in order to develop a budget balanced within resources. Revenue estimates begin in August of the year prior to the fiscal year being adopted. This process includes the review of current County finances, local and regional economic conditions, and a re-examination of key local economic indicators. This includes such specifics as building permits, tax assessments, business license records, retail sales by category and type. The questions that are asked in this review are aimed at acquiring relevant financial information that will set the broad limits of budgetary possibilities. From a fiscal perspective, the basic question is whether current revenues support the necessary budgetary outlays.

October

Target Development

The next step in the budget process is to create a funding or target allocation for each department, which is calculated by the Office of Management and Budget in October. Debt service requirements are the top priority before targets are created for the individual departments. Payroll expenditures are the next "fixed" obligation. The target allocation provides the funding for all of the current positions in the County's personnel complement. The target allocation assigned to the individual department also provides funding for operating and capital outlay items, which are based on the prior year approved budget. It does not automatically include an inflation factor for operating expenditures, nor does it fund any new services or positions. The target allocations do, where applicable, include the operating costs of new facilities approved in prior year budgets. This "link" between the operating and capital budgets is performed through an annual crosswalk that determines all such costs. The FY2014-15 Operating budget includes all operating costs arising from new facilities that are anticipated to become operational during the fiscal year. For additional information, please see "Capital Improvement Program – Implications on Operating Budget", found elsewhere in this document.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

Nov 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

November

Budget Call for Estimates

Each year all County departments receive the County Manager's "Call for Estimates" (i.e., budget call) in November, which contains the budget policy, special budget instructions, various revisions to the budget manual, a budget calendar, and the target allocation. The Call for Estimates is accompanied by information on using the County's Automated Budget System, which enables the departments to prepare their budget requests on their departmental personal computers and submit them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) electronically. The budget request consists of expenditure estimates in detail by line item, and in summary, together with supporting narrative information. When expenditure needs exceed the target allocation, departments must submit a request for additional funding. Certain County departments such as Education, Police, and Fire are considered priorities when allocating new funds among departments. Each request must be prioritized and prepared with detailed justification to support the need for additional funding.

November through December

Financial Trend Monitoring System

An important step of the budget process involves the completion of the Financial Trend Monitoring System Trends Document, which represents an eleven-year evaluation of past financial and economic indicators. These indicators, over time, may reflect fluctuations, which when analyzed, prove to be extremely valuable as a management tool. The document allows staff to monitor changes in all aspects of the local economy and provides an insight into possible trends that may impact future decision making. This document, which analyzes historical trends, is utilized as a forecasting tool and provides a logical way of introducing long-range considerations into the annual budget process. The County benefits by examining historical trends of financial and economic indicators prior to initiating the budget process. For more information regarding the Trends document, please see: http://www.co.henrico.va.us/finance/divisions/office-of-management-and-budget/financial-trends/

Dec 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

December

Budget Submissions

All County departments submit their budgets in the first week in December for initial review by the Office of Management and Budget. This includes both the target allocation as well as any supplemental requests for funding. The Budget Director and the OMB staff prepare the revenue estimates, and work closely with the County Manager and department administrators in reviewing expenditure estimates both in program and financial terms.

Jan 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

December through January

Review of Budget Submissions

The Office of Management and Budget reviews each department's budget submission and provides recommendations, as appropriate, to the County Manager. These recommendations include expenditure analyses and evaluations of budget submissions. As a result of this review, a narrative for each department is created.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

Feb 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

January through February

Executive Budget Reviews

After the expenditure estimates are analyzed, department requests are presented to the Executive Budget Review Committee. This Committee holds hearings to discuss budget submissions with departments in the last week of January through the first week in February. The Executive Budget Review Committee consists of the County Manager, (four) Deputy County Managers, the Director of Finance, the Director of Human Resources, one department director on a rotating basis, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the supporting (six) budget analysts. The representatives from the departments are present at the time of these reviews and have the opportunity to make presentations and answer questions relative to their budget requests. The Budget Office finalizes recommendations based on the Executive Review Committee results.

Mar 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

March

Legislative Budget Reviews

Based on information exchanged during the Executive Budget Reviews, a balanced budget is recommended by the County Manager to the County Board of Supervisors as the Proposed Budget in early March. (The Code of Virginia requires that the County Manager submit a balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors). The Legislative Budget Review Committee is comprised of the County Board of Supervisors, which represents each of the County's five magisterial districts. The budget document that is presented to the County Board of Supervisors during these hearings represents the culmination of long periods of intensive research and analysis. The purpose of the document is to present to the legislative body and the public a comprehensive picture of proposed operations for the budget year, expressed in both verbal and statistical terms. During the hearings, the Board of Supervisors examines all line items in each of the department's budgets and all associated operational premises. These hearings are held during the course of one week, in the middle of March, approximately eight hours per day. Based on these hearings, the County Board of Supervisors may amend the County Manager's Proposed Budget.

Apr 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

April (Second and Fourth Tuesdays)

Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget

Once the County Board of Supervisors has received the County Manager's Proposed Budget, advertisements in the local newspaper are ordered and a date is set for the Budget Public Hearing in April. The FY2014-15 Public Hearing was held on April 8, 2014. The public hearing that sets the tax levies was held on April 22, 2014. The Code of Virginia requires that the County advertise a synopsis of the budget in the newspaper and that one or more public hearings be held before the Board adopts the budget. The Board of Supervisors adopts the Annual Fiscal Plan during this month and sets tax levies for the Calendar Year.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

May

Publish and Distribute Budget

During the month of May, the final Annual Fiscal Plan is compiled, published, and distributed.

Jun 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

June

Appropriation of Budget

In the final month of the current fiscal year (last Board meeting in June), the Board of Supervisors appropriates funding for the next Annual Fiscal Plan, which is required by the Code of Virginia.

During the Fiscal Year

Transfers

The County Manager is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any Fund; however, any revisions that alter the total budgeted amounts and/or appropriations of any Fund require an amendment to the budget. The Code of Virginia requires that the Board of Supervisors approve any amendment request. If the total amendment requested at any one time is over one percent of the current total appropriation, the request also must be advertised in the newspaper and a public hearing must be held before the Board can act.

FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

The following informal guidelines represent principles and practices that have guided the County in the past and have helped foster the County's current financial stability. These guidelines allow the Board maximum flexibility each year when determining how best to meet the needs of County residents when adopting the Annual Fiscal Plan.

General Guidelines:

The County of Henrico will maintain its AAA General Obligation Bond ratings with Standard and Poors, Moody's Investor Service and Fitch IBCA. Currently, Henrico County is one of 35 Counties in the nation that maintains a AAA/AAA/Aaa General Obligation Bond rating.

The County of Henrico will continue its efforts of "Changing the way Henrico does business", as a means of ensuring the County's residents an efficient and highly effective local government.

The County of Henrico will utilize technological advances as a means of providing more convenient and streamlined services to citizens, increasing employee productivity and reducing the need for new positions.

The County of Henrico will allocate new dollars (after meeting fixed commitments such as debt service requirements and benefits changes) to the areas of Education and Public Safety first.

The County of Henrico will attempt to utilize benefits of new economic development successes as a means of maintaining the low tax rate environment the residents currently enjoy. In addition, the County will maintain a balance between the need for real estate tax relief for residents with the long-term operational needs of the County. In that regard, **the FY2014-15 Annual Fiscal Plan is based on a Real Estate Tax rate of $0.87/$100 of assessed valuation for CY2014 real estate tax levies.**

The County of Henrico will continue its proactive efforts to bolster the quality of life our residents now enjoy.

Budgetary Guidelines:

The County's budgetary policies are based upon guidelines and restrictions established by State and County Code and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for Governmental entities. These provisions set forth the County's fiscal year, public hearing and advertising requirements, restrictions on taxation, and also stipulate that the County must maintain a balanced budget.

The County's budget may be considered balanced if estimated revenues meet planned expenditures.

Cash Management:

The County will invest public funds in a manner that provides the highest investment return with the maximum safety while meeting daily cash flow demands. The County will deposit available funds on the same day they are received.

Capital Improvement Program Guidelines:

The County will develop a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program annually. The first year of this plan or a portion thereof will be approved by the Board of Supervisors after legal advertising and public hearing requirements have been met.

The County's Capital Improvement Program will utilize debt financing as a funding source only after it has been determined that the County can afford to service this debt and associated operating costs in subsequent years. The County will attempt to maximize the use of pay-as-you-go financing for capital projects.

Financial Guidelines (continued)

The County will continue to enhance the level of pay-as-you-go funding in the annual Capital budget as a means of reducing reliance on debt financing for capital projects.

The County will ensure that all operating costs arising from approved capital projects are accounted for in the operating budget, through the compilation of an annual crosswalk analysis that captures all such costs.

The County will maintain its physical assets at a level adequate to protect the County's capital investment and minimize future maintenance and replacement costs. The operating budget will provide for the adequate maintenance of these facilities and infrastructure.

Debt Guidelines:

A long-term debt affordability analysis will be completed on an annual basis as a means of ensuring that the County does not exceed its ability to service current and future debt requirements. This analysis will verify that the County is maintaining the following prescribed ratios and will be performed in conjunction with the County's Capital Improvement Program Process. The guidelines that are utilized are as follows:

Debt Service as a Percentage of General Fund Expenditures: 7.75%
Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Value: 1.49%
Debt per Capita: $1,650

The County will adopt annual water and sewer rates that will generate sufficient revenues to meet the legal requirements of Enterprise Fund bond covenants. These rates will also allow for adequate capital replacement in water and sewer systems.

Revenues:

Multi-Year revenue and expenditure forecasts for all County funds will be included as a part of the Adopted Annual Fiscal Plan.

The County of Henrico will attempt to maintain a stable but diversified revenue base as a means of sheltering it from fluctuations in the economy.

The County will continue to strive to exceed a 70% residential – 30% commercial real estate assessment ratio. Maintaining a healthy commercial ratio will help the County maintain current tax rates while continuing to enhance service delivery efforts – particularly in the area of Education.

While revenues are monitored continually, a report is compiled quarterly that depicts current year trends, receipts, and explains any unanticipated revenue variances. With the approval by the voters of a referendum on November 5, 2013 and subsequent ordinance approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 25, 2014, all revenues generated by a 4% tax on food and beverages sold in restaurants, commonly known as a "meals tax", will support the operations and capital infrastructure of Henrico County Public Schools.

Financial Guidelines (continued)

Fund Balance Guidelines:

The County has, over time, maintained a healthy unassigned fund balance – as compared to similar sized Virginia localities. As a percentage of actual General Fund expenditures, the County's unassigned (formally undesignated) fund balance has been:

FY99:	10.67%
FY00:	12.90%
FY01:	15.54%
FY02:	16.69%
FY03:	17.79%
FY04:	18.04%
FY05:	18.00%
FY06:	18.00%
FY07:	18.00%
FY08:	18.00%
FY09:	18.00%
FY10:	18.00%
FY11:	18.00%
FY12:	15.00%
FY13:	15.00%

During the FY2005-06 budget, the Board of Supervisors agreed with a policy recommendation to maintain the undesignated fund balance at a level of 18.0 percent of General Fund expenditures effective June 30, 2006. During the fiscal year-end closing of the County's books, any funding over the agreed upon level of unassigned fund balance will be allocated to a Capital Reserve Fund for future allocation as a pay-as-you-go funding source in the Capital Budget. The policy of maintaining this reserve will be examined on an annual basis, during the budget process.

During the FY2012-13 Approved Budget, the Board of Supervisors agreed to reduce the amount of unassigned fund balance maintained from 18.0 percent to 15.0 percent of General Fund expenditures. The one-time funding generated due to this reduction as of June 30, 2012 was assigned to a dedicated vehicle replacement reserve that was used to replace police vehicles, fire apparatus and school buses.

The County will not use its unassigned fund balance to subsidize current operations.

Note: The fund balance portrayal above is different than the analysis performed annually in the Trends document. The Trends portrayal examines the Unassigned Fund Balance as a percentage of revenues in the Operating Funds – which includes the General, Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds. The portrayal above reflects the County's Unassigned Fund Balance as a percentage of General Fund Expenditures.

Inter-Fund Guidelines:

The General Fund will be reimbursed annually by the Enterprise Fund for general and administrative services provided such as finance, personnel, and administration.

The General Fund will reimburse the Enterprise Fund, on an annual basis, for debt service requirements associated with the Elko Tract Infrastructure Improvement Bonds.

The General Fund will subsidize the Solid Waste Operation for costs not recouped from user fees associated with curbside recycling, bulky waste pickup, neighborhood cleanups and bagged leaf collection.