

BUDGET MESSAGE

Chairman Triche, Honorable Members of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, I am pleased to present to you the budget for general operations and maintenance and capital improvement funds for the year beginning January 1, 2014.

Assumption Parish has three different types of funds (general fund, special revenue funds, and capital project funds). The individual funds within each fund type are identified in this budget report.

Preparation of annual operating budgets for submittal to the Police Jury is the shared responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer and the staff accountant, with the projection of program expenditures and needed improvements provided by operating department heads. The year 2014 annual budget was prepared based upon past operating history and the projected needs and changes for the upcoming fiscal period. After the budgets have been completed for each fund, they are submitted to the Police Jury President, whose responsibility is to review them. Once adjustments have been made by the Police Jury President, the budget is submitted to the Police Jury for final approval.

The following is a discussion of significant changes in select funds:

GENERAL FUND:

The General Fund accounts for all revenues and expenditures of the Assumption Parish Police Jury, which are not accounted for in other funds. The fund generally receives revenues from taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental grants, interest earnings, rents, and royalties. For the upcoming year of 2014, revenues are estimated to remain steady as to those revenues received in 2013. Expenditures for the year 2014 are expected to increase minimally as compared to those expenditures in 2013. A step increase in salaries was allocated in 2014 which equates to approximately a 3% increase in pay per employee. Recreation allowances have increased to \$30,000 per year per ward. Cumulative allocations for recreation allowances have been incorporated into the budget for 2014 resulting in an increase in expenditures of \$571,579. Once again, additional funding of \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs for the Parish Health Unit has been allocated. As in past years, \$10,000 has also been appropriated for the Summer Feeding Program for 2014. The building allocation for 2014 was reduced to \$20,000 to cover only absolutely necessary building renovations. The Criminal Court fund is requiring a \$135,000 transfer from General Fund. An annual funding allocation of \$10,000 was appropriated to the Chamber of Commerce for the implementation of economic development and tourism within Assumption Parish. The General Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$6,505,425.

1% SALES TAX:

The 1% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues for 2014 Sales Tax Collections have declined slightly from 2013 to \$2,339,274. Interest earnings have increased slightly, but, due to market value adjustments, show no increase at all. Expenditures are slightly increased compared to previous years. An allocation of \$70,000 has been appropriated for possible building renovations. An overall 3% increase in salaries was allocated for all existing employees. The Library Fund allocation was appropriated for a total transfer of \$225,000 as in previous years. The transfer allocation for the Road & Bridge Fund has been maintained at \$1,019,400. The transfer

allocation for the Health Unit has also remained steady at \$18,400 for utility costs. The 1% Sales Tax Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of \$1,682,116.

¼% SALES TAX – DRAINAGE:

The ¼% Sales Tax Fund accounts for revenues generated from the sales tax collections throughout the parish. Estimated revenues are on a slight decline from 2013 at \$560,000. Drainage project allocations have increased from \$275,000 to \$365,000 for 2014. With this, the estimated ending fund balance is \$446,364.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS/FACILITIES FUND:

For 2014, the Assumption Parish Community Center will be fully operational for the entirety of the year. All funding for this center is run through the Public Buildings/Facilities Fund. Revenues are anticipated at approximately \$190,000 with expenditures anticipated at approximately \$222,400. The fund is expected to have an ending fund balance in 2014 of \$1,186,722.

Revenues and expenditures of all remaining funds are in line with past years with minor fluctuations. Resulting, therefore, in an estimated total parish ending fund balance of \$19,535,810.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim M. Torres
Secretary-Treasurer