



Judge/Executive Gary W. Moore

County positioned for recovery

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Unlike Washington, county government must balance its budget each fiscal year. We do not borrow exorbitant amounts of money and we don't spend more than we collect. As Judge/Executive, I have directed the administration to lead with conservative fiscal policies that have placed the county in sound fiscal shape. I'd like to review a few of the points made at our recent fiscal court meeting as we closed the books on the previous fiscal year.

As many families are tightening their belts in our community, so is county government. Over the last five years the approved county budget was less than the previous year. Subsequently, county government, like families, is doing more with less and working to get by in these difficult economic times.

In the fiscal year that just closed, I'm proud to report that for all recurring expenses, the county has managed to reduce spending in the general fund for the third year in a row. In fact, you may be interested to know that we spent less in the previous fiscal year than we did five years ago. This is largely due to decreasing the total number of employees and other cost cutting measures taken during these difficult economic times.

You may be pleased to know that the fourth fiscal quarter generated a noticeable increase compared to the previous year in the amount of revenue from occupational license taxes due to more people working in Boone County. In fact, this is only the second time in county history that \$5 million was collected in one quarter of payroll taxes. This gives me cautious enthusiasm that our economy is improving.

It was also reported that revenue from building permit fees has increased over the previous year. I believe an increase in activity in the development industry is another positive sign of economic recovery. These fees pay for the inspections that help ensure safe building construction in Boone County.

We will emerge from this difficult economic time poised to be stronger and ready for success in the future. Boone County has been recognized as the healthiest county in Kentucky for two years. I dare say we are also the most fiscally healthy due to our conservative tax policy and reduced spending year after year. We will emerge from our country's financial crisis poised to achieve greater heights while still maintaining our low tax policies.