# **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

## Introduction

The County's management discussion and analysis presents an overview of the County's financial activities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2006. Please read it in conjunction with the Letter of Transmittal, beginning on page 1, and the County's financial statements beginning on page 32.

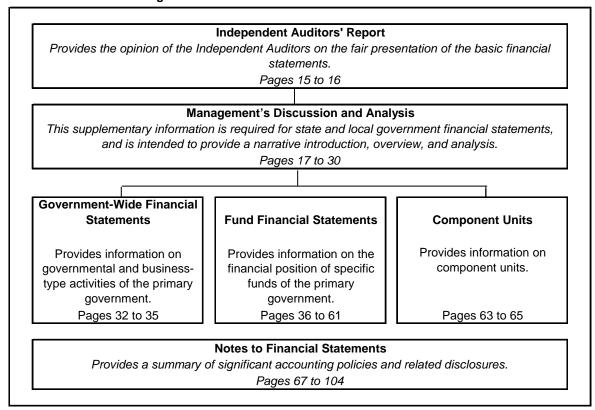
# Financial Highlights

- The assets of the County exceeded its liabilities at the close of fiscal year 2006 by \$717,776,693 (*net assets*). Of this amount, \$135,903,234 (*unrestricted net assets*) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- At September 30, 2006, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$343,280,331, an increase of \$50,464,215.
- At September 30, 2006, unreserved fund balance for the General Fund was \$57,634,653, an increase of 29.0 percent over the prior fiscal year.
- Governmental funds revenues increased \$46,294,781 or 12.1 percent over the prior fiscal year.
- The County's outstanding notes payable, capital lease, and bonded debt increased by \$33,979,207 or 10.7 percent during fiscal year 2006. The principal retirements of its notes payable, capital lease, and bonded debt totaling \$18,261,646 did not offset increases in its notes payable and capital lease totaling \$12,365,853 and the increase of bonded debt of \$39,875,000 from one new issue.

## **Overview Of The Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the County's basic financial statements. The County's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

#### **Organization and Flow of Financial Section Information**



#### **Government-wide financial statements**

The *government-wide financial statements*, which consist of the following two statements, are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the County's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net assets* presents information on all of the County's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as *net assets*. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the County is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net assets changed during fiscal year 2006. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned, but unused vacation leave).

Both of these financial statements distinguish functions of the County that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activities of the County include general government, public safety, physical environment, transportation, economic environment, health and social services, culture/recreation, and other community services. The business-type activities of the County include refuse disposal, airport operations, mass transit, water and sewer utilities, and garbage collection.

The government-wide financial statements include not only the County itself (known as the *primary government*), but also the following legally separate component units: Clerk of the Circuit Court, Volusia County Law Library, and Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc. Financial information for these *component units* is reported separately from the financial information presented for the primary government itself.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 32-35 of this report.

#### **Fund financial statements**

A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The County, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the County can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

### Governmental funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The County maintains 43 individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general, municipal service district, ocean center expansion, bond funded road program, subordinate lien sales tax revenue bonds, and federal and state grant funds, which are considered to be major funds. Data from the other 37 governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these nonmajor governmental funds is provided in the form of *combining statements* in the supplementary information section of this report.

The County adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general, budgeted special revenue, and debt service funds and project-length budgets for the capital projects funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for these funds to demonstrate budgetary compliance.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 36-48 of this report.

### Proprietary funds

The County maintains two different types of proprietary funds. *Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as *business-type activities* in the government-wide financial statements, except in more detail. The County uses enterprise funds to account for activities of a government that provide goods or services primarily to the public at large on a consumer charge basis. The proprietary fund financial statements provide separate information for the refuse disposal, Daytona Beach International Airport, Volusia Transportation Authority, water and sewer utilities, and garbage collection funds. *Internal service funds* are an accounting device used to accumulate and internally allocate costs to the County's various functions. The County uses internal service funds to account for its computer replacement, vehicle maintenance, self-insurance and risk management, and employee group insurance programs. Because the services of these funds predominantly benefit governmental rather than business-type functions, they have been included within *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements.

All internal service funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation in the proprietary fund financial statements. Individual fund data for the internal service funds is provided in the form of *combining statements* in the supplementary information section of this report.

The basic proprietary fund financial statements can be found on pages 50-59 of this report.

## Fiduciary funds

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are *not* reflected in the government-wide financial statement because the resources of those funds are *not* available to support the County's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is similar to proprietary funds.

The basic fiduciary fund financial statements can be found on pages 60-61 of this report.

#### Notes to the financial statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 67-104 of this report.

#### Other information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required* supplementary information concerning the County's progress in funding its obligation to provide pension benefits to its volunteer firefighters. Required supplementary information can be found on page 106 of this report.

The combining statements referred to earlier in connection with nonmajor governmental, major capital project, internal service, and agency funds are presented in the supplementary information section of this report. Combining and individual fund statements and schedules can be found on pages 112-187 of this report.

# Financial Analysis Of County Of Volusia, Florida: Government-Wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the County, assets exceeded liabilities by \$717,776,693 at the close of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2006.

At the end of fiscal year 2006, the County is able to report positive balances in all three categories of net assets, both for the government as a whole, as well as for its separate governmental and business-type activities. The same situation held true for the prior fiscal year.

County of Volusia, Florida									
Net Assets									
	Governmen	tal Activities	Business-ty	pe Activities	Total				
	2006	2005	2006 2005		2006	2005			
Current and other			`						
assets	\$ 426,772,047	\$ 362,552,637	\$ 70,051,050	\$ 60,611,946	\$ 496,823,097	\$ 423,164,583			
Capital assets	474,620,419	423,791,083	194,158,257	176,589,779	668,778,676	600,380,862			
Total assets	901,392,466	786,343,720	264,209,307	237,201,725	1,165,601,773	1,023,545,445			
Long-term liabilities									
outstanding	322,190,381	286,183,230	69,006,984	72,101,175	391,197,365	358,284,405			
Other liabilities	45,032,412	38,332,415	11,595,303	6,063,000	56,627,715	44,395,415			
Total liabilities	367,222,793	324,515,645	80,602,287	78,164,175	447,825,080	402,679,820			
Net Assets:									
Invested in capital									
assets, net of									
related debt	322,890,595	292,915,827	136,946,061	118,841,502	459,836,656	411,757,329			
Restricted	115,703,697	102,395,240	6,333,106	16,992,048	122,036,803	119,387,288			
Unrestricted	95,575,381	66,517,008	40,327,853	23,204,000	135,903,234	89,721,008			
Total net assets	\$ 534,169,673	\$ 461,828,075	\$ 183,607,020	\$ 159,037,550	\$ 717,776,693	\$ 620,865,625			

The largest portion of the County's net assets (64.1 percent) reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, and equipment), less any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The County uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens; consequently, these assets are *not* available for future spending. Although the County's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

An additional portion of the County's net assets (17.0 percent) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. For governmental activities, restricted assets increased \$13,308,457 over last year primarily due to an increase in funds for the Ocean Center expansion, the bond funded road program, ECHO and Forever capital projects, and debt service. There was a net decrease of \$10,658,942 in restricted net assets reported in connection with the County's business-type activities. The decrease resulted from changing the means of satisfying bond reserve requirements by purchasing a surety bond and using restricted funds for their intended purpose. The remaining balance of *unrestricted net assets* (\$135,903,234) for both governmental and business-type activities, may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

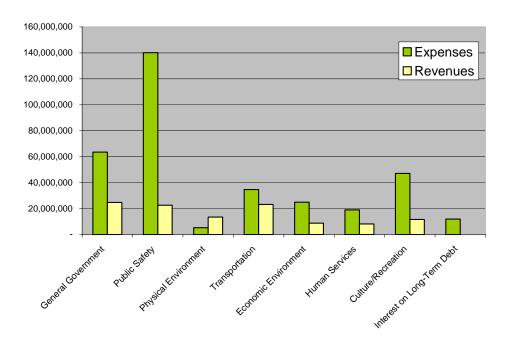
#### **Governmental activities**

Governmental activities increased the County's net assets by \$72,341,598 thereby accounting for 74.9 percent of the total growth in the net assets of the County. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

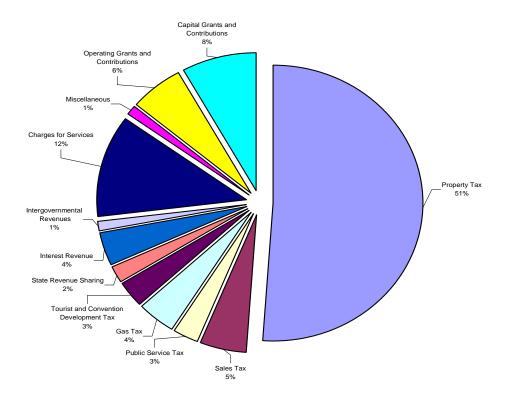
- Property tax revenue increased \$29,497,977, an increase of 15.4 percent, over the prior fiscal year.
- Interest revenue increased by \$10,892,423, an increase of 136.2 percent, over the prior fiscal year.
- Physical environment program revenues charges for services increased \$2,700,325 due to a rate increase in stormwater fees for residential units. In addition, a state grant for dune restoration projects contributed to the \$6,955,203 increase in capital grants and contributions over the prior year.

County of Volusia, Florida Changes in Net Assets									
	Governmen	tal Activities		pe Activities	Total				
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005			
Revenues:									
Program Revenues:									
Charges for services	\$ 53,303,010	\$ 47,303,189	\$ 49,507,069	\$ 45,622,285	\$102,810,079	\$ 92,925,4			
Operating grants and									
contributions	25,163,448	34,604,270	8,047,720	10,602,513	33,211,168	45,206,7			
Capital grants and									
contributions	34,278,269	27,323,066	21,168,331	8,605,661	55,446,600	35,928,7			
General Revenues:									
Property taxes	220,695,273	191,197,296	-	-	220,695,273	191,197,2			
Other taxes	62,908,922	61,679,283	-	-	62,908,922	61,679,2			
Grants and contributions									
not restricted to									
specific programs	-	1,012,246	-	-	-	1,012,2			
Other	32,251,465	17,868,177	2,584,367	4,370,491	34,835,832	22,238,6			
Total revenues	428,600,387	380,987,527	81,307,487	69,200,950	509,907,874	450,188,4			
Expenses:									
General government	63,570,846	58,773,973	_	_	63,570,846	58,773,9			
Public safety	140,169,412	126,272,315	_	_	140,169,412	126,272,3			
Physical environment	5,294,803	5,906,176	_	_	5,294,803	5,906,1			
Transportation	34,706,556	37,312,003	_	_	34,706,556	37,312,0			
Economic environment	24,962,203	19,846,710	-	-	24,962,203	19,846,7			
Human services			-	-					
Culture/recreation	19,002,622	19,077,825	-	-	19,002,622	19,077,8			
	47,169,456	41,629,072	-	-	47,169,456	41,629,0			
Interest on long-term	44 047 707	40 404 557			44 047 707	40.404.5			
debt	11,947,707	10,161,557	-	45.040.400	11,947,707	10,161,5			
Refuse disposal	-	-	14,222,458	15,249,106	14,222,458	15,249,1			
Daytona Beach			45.040.000	45.040.440	45.040.000	45.040.4			
International Airport	-	-	15,343,982	15,312,142	15,343,982	15,312,1			
Volusia Transportation			10.004.157	10 101 000	10.004.457	40.404.6			
Authority	-	-	19,821,457	19,181,600	19,821,457	19,181,6			
Water and sewer utilities	-	-	10,551,462	9,869,034	10,551,462	9,869,0			
Garbage collection	-	-	6,568,672	4,736,623	6,568,672	4,736,6			
Total expenses	346,823,605	318,979,631	66,508,031	64,348,505	413,331,636	383,328,1			
ncrease in net assets									
before transfers	81,776,782	62,007,896	14,799,456	4,852,445	96,576,238	66,860,3			
Transfers in (out)	(9,435,184)	(5,740,148)	9,435,184	5,740,148	-				
Increase in net assets	72,341,598	56,267,748	24,234,640	10,592,593	96,576,238	66,860,3			
Net assets -									
beginning of year, restated	461,828,075	405,560,327	159,372,380	148,444,957	621,200,455	554,005,2			
Net assets - end of year	\$534,169,673	\$461,828,075	\$183,607,020	\$159,037,550	\$717,776,693	\$620,865,6			

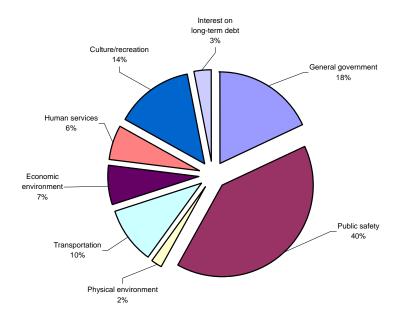
## **Expenses and Program Revenues – Governmental Activities**



# **Revenue by Source – Governmental Activities**



Expenses by Function/Program - Governmental Activities

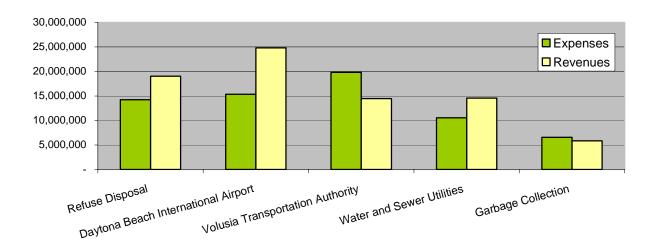


#### **Business-type activities**

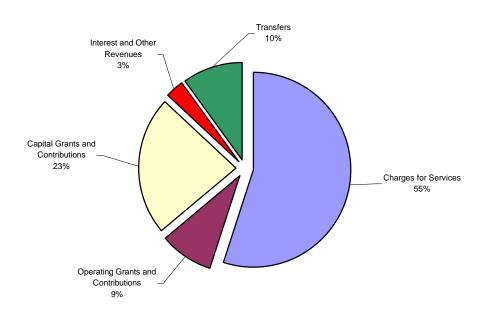
Business-type activities increased the County's net assets by \$24,234,640, accounting for 25.1 percent of the total growth in the government's net assets. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

- The Refuse Disposal fund generated \$5,198,388 in net assets due to the net effect of an established budgeted operating surplus necessary to cover anticipated future costs and the stabilization of operating expenses.
- During the fiscal year, Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA) received \$2,377,934 from a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) innovative financing grant.
- The FAA provided \$3.8 million funding assistance towards the construction of the airport perimeter road.
- DBIA received \$4.4 million from the State for assistance in acquiring 138 acres of land adjacent to the airport.
- During the fiscal year, Volusia Transportation Authority (Votran) received an increase in their transfer from the General Fund of \$3.5 million. The transfer was necessary to subsidize Votran operations.

## Expenses and Program Revenues - Business-type Activities



## **Revenues by Source – Business-type Activities**



# **Financial Analysis Of The County's Funds**

As noted earlier, the County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

#### **Governmental funds**

The focus of the County's *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County's financing requirements. In particular, *unreserved fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of fiscal year 2006, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$343,280,331, an increase of \$50,464,215. *Unreserved, undesignated fund balance* of \$126,595,751 is available for spending at the County's discretion; \$15,120,942 is designated as emergency reserves and \$45,393,691 is designated for capital projects. The remainder of fund balance is *reserved* to indicate that it is not available for new spending because it has already been committed: 1) to liquidate contracts and purchase orders of the prior period (\$45,695,873), 2) for inventories (\$1,359,658), 3) for advances to other funds (\$2,801,802), 4) to pay debt service (\$2,639,752), 5) for capital projects (\$99,517,541), 6) for employee receivables (\$230,092), 7) for long-term notes receivable (\$3,316,335), and 8) other long-term receivables (\$608,894). The general, municipal service district, federal and state grants, Ocean Center expansion, bond funded road program, and subordinate lien sales tax revenue bonds funds are reported as major funds in the basic financial statements.

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the County. At the end of fiscal year 2006, unreserved fund balance of the general fund was \$57,634,653, while total fund balance reached \$63,358,243. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unreserved fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 34.1 percent of the total general fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 37.5 percent of that same amount.

The fund balance of the County's general fund increased by \$14,303,063 during the current fiscal year. This increase is mainly attributed to an increase in tax revenues of \$18,728,376 and interest revenue of \$2,260,186 over fiscal year 2005, offset by expenditure increases in general government, public safety, economic environment activities, and transfers out.

The municipal service district fund accounts for the fiscal activity of the resources generated by any municipal-type services rendered to the citizens and taxpayers of the County's unincorporated areas. Its fund balance of \$11,273,105 is an increase of \$2,009,688 from the prior fiscal year. Increases in tax revenues, charges for services, and transfers in, more than offset the \$3,894,842 increase in expenditures.

The federal and state grants fund balance of \$3,238,711 represents a decrease of \$3,501,861 from last fiscal year. This 51.9 percent decrease is mainly attributed to \$2,882,900 county match funds expended for the Port Authority dune restoration project and \$590,000 of county match funds returned to the Port Authority beach erosion project.

The subordinate lien sales tax revenue bond debt service fund accounts for the resources necessary to meet the requirements to pay the principal, interest, and related costs of \$8,678,566 for four sales tax revenue bond issues.

The Ocean Center expansion project fund is in its third year. In fiscal year 2004, the County issued \$64,710,000 in Tourist Development Tax revenue bonds to provide resources for the construction project. During the 2006 fiscal year, the fund received interest revenues of \$2,473,417 and incurred expenditures of \$8,101,726 in project costs. The ending fund balance is \$50,604,584.

The bond funded road program fund represents a portion of the County's 5-Year Road Program. Its projects were selected based on input from the cities with emphasis on those projects that support or could enhance economic development. During the fiscal year, the fund received interest revenues of \$2,930,251 and incurred \$6,501,484 in project costs. The ending fund balance is \$62,137,384.

## **Proprietary funds**

The County's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. Unrestricted net assets of proprietary funds at the end of the year amounted to:

Proprietary Funds Unrestricted Net Assets							
Proprietary Fund	_	2006	2005				
Enterprise Funds							
Refuse disposal	\$	11,184,953	\$	4,938,050			
Daytona Beach International Airport		12,976,147		6,116,902			
Volusia Transportation Authority		2,385,958		326,888			
Water and sewer utilities		11,350,032		9,647,423			
Garbage collection		1,222,802		1,184,707			
Total	\$	39,119,892	\$	22,213,970			
Internal Service Funds	\$	13,438,425	\$	8,274,707			

# **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

Differences between the general fund's original budget and final amended budgeted expenditures were \$2,296,962. These changes resulted from the following:

Increase in general governmental activities of \$1,187,069, mainly due to the recognition of a grant to
acquire new elections voting equipment.

- Increase in public safety activities of \$1,071,893, mainly necessary to cover additional expenditures associated with the operation of the corrections clinic.
- Increase in human services activities of \$38,000 due to anticipated street improvement contributions from non-county sources.

The variance between the final amended budget and actual expenditures for the general fund for the year was \$26,887,698. Major variances are summarized as follows:

- Facilities services expenditures were \$5,603,684 less than budget. This variance was caused by delays in projects related to the acquisition of emergency generators and HVAC systems for various County facilities, court facilities renovations, and branch jail renovations.
- General government non-departmental expenditures were \$8,028,834 less than budget which represents reserves for emergencies and future periods.
- Sheriff expenditures were \$1,827,122 less than budget. The majority of the variance represented a reduction in anticipated personal services expenditures related to significant turnovers and changes in position which took time to be filled.
- Economic development expenditures were \$2,567,278 less than budgeted. Unspent funds for the construction of the DeLand Crossing infrastructure and grants-in-aid available for county businesses which have not been granted, account for this variance.

# **Capital Asset And Debt Administration**

#### **Capital Assets**

The County's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of September 30, 2006 amounts to \$668,778,676 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, leasehold improvements, equipment, infrastructure, and construction in progress. The total increase in the County's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year was 11.4 percent (a 12.0 percent increase for governmental activities and a 9.9 percent increase for business-type activities).

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

- Construction continued on several of the County's capital projects including the Ocean Center expansion, Lake Beresford Park, Spring to Spring Trail development, Ridgewood Avenue dog park, DeBary Hall expansion, beach headquarters renovations, off-beach parking, and the Strickland gun range. When combined, construction in progress for governmental activities increased to \$26,136,756 at the close of the fiscal year.
- Construction began on the DeLand Crossings Business Park, an economic development project turning
  unproductive public land into a 43 acre industrial park with the potential to create up to 300 jobs. This
  project is being developed in conjunction with funding from the Florida Office of Trade, Tourism &
  Economic Development, U. S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Department of Housing & Urban
  Development.
- Two major projects were undertaken by the Sheriff's office in fiscal year 2006. A hangar was purchased at the DeLand Airport for the relocation of the Special Services operations from the Daytona Beach International Airport. Also, 15.79 acres of land in DeLand was purchased for a new evidence facility and District II office.

- During the fiscal year, the County purchased conservation lands for \$15,262,355. This included 1,644 acres of the Pioneer Trail Reserve, 17 acres on Spruce Creek in partnership with the city of Port Orange, and 1,371 acres in the Lake George Conservation area.
- Completion of several of the County's road projects for expansion resulted in an increase of \$13,248,236 to infrastructure capital assets. The depreciation for fiscal year 2006 amounted to \$9,922,448 causing the infrastructure net assets to rise by \$3,325,788. Five of the major infrastructure projects are: 1) Williamson Blvd. from US 92 to Dunn Ave.; 2) Tenth St. from Tatum to Myrtle; 3) Clyde Morris Blvd. from Aberdeen to Fallway; 4) Saxon Blvd. from Normandy to Sumatra; and 5) DeBary Ave. from Doyle Rd. to I-4.
- The County, with funding assistance from the State, acquired approximately 138 acres of land adjacent to the Daytona Beach International Airport. The total acquisition costs were \$12,768,350.

County of Volusia, Florida Capital Assets (net of depreciation)								
	Governmen	tal Activities	Business-ty	pe Activities	Total			
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005		
Land	\$ 95,485,715	\$ 76,808,943	\$ 48,567,947	\$ 35,837,771	\$144,053,662	\$112,646,714		
Buildings	143,848,958	146,279,870	13,794,866	14,655,230	157,643,824	160,935,100		
Improvements other								
than buildings	9,858,856	10,503,108	106,315,091	107,579,080	116,173,947	118,082,188		
Leasehold improvements	158,157	184,704	-	-	158,157	184,704		
Equipment	40,699,912	37,780,539	16,170,981	14,680,649	56,870,893	52,461,188		
Infrastructure	109,124,219	105,798,431	-	-	109,124,219	105,798,431		
Construction in progress	26,136,756	7,148,019	9,309,372	3,837,049	35,446,128	10,985,068		
Construction in progress -								
infrastructure	49,307,846	39,287,469			49,307,846	39,287,469		
Total	\$474,620,419	\$423,791,083	\$194,158,257	\$176,589,779	\$668,778,676	\$600,380,862		

Additional information on the County's capital assets can be found in Note 7 on pages 83-85 of this report.

## Long-term bonded debt

At the end of fiscal year 2006, the County's total bonded debt outstanding amounted to \$316,530,000. This amount represents bonds secured by specified revenue sources (i.e., revenue bonds), and bonds secured by a property tax levy of 0.20 mills on all taxable property in the County (general obligation bonds).

County of Volusia, Florida Outstanding Bonded Debt Revenue and General Obligation Bonds								
	Governmental Activities		Business-ty	pe Activities	Total			
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005		
Revenue bonds	\$230,130,000	\$238,905,000	\$46,525,000	\$48,455,000	\$276,655,000	\$287,360,000		
General obligation bonds	39,875,000				39,875,000			
Total	\$270,005,000	\$238,905,000	\$46,525,000	\$48,455,000	\$316,530,000	\$287,360,000		

The County's outstanding bonded debt increased by \$29,170,000 or 10.2 percent during fiscal year 2006. The key factor in this increase was a new bond issue of \$39,875,000 exceeding the scheduled principal retirements of \$10,705,000.

Additional information on the County's debt can be found in Note 8 on pages 86-95 of this report.

# **Economic Factors And Next Year's Budgets And Rates**

- At September 30, 2006, the unemployment rate for the County decreased to 3.1 percent, compared to 3.4 percent in the prior year.
- Population increased approximately 1.9 percent from the prior fiscal year to 503,844 at September 30, 2006.

At September 30, 2006, unreserved and undesignated fund balance in the general fund amounted to \$46,515,310. The County has appropriated \$31,260,295 of this amount for spending in the 2007 fiscal year budget. The ad valorem tax rate for the general fund was decreased by 1.0437 mills or \$38.2 million for the 2007 fiscal year budget.

# **Requests For Information**

This financial report is designed to present users with a general overview of the County's finances and to demonstrate the County's accountability. If you have questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or need additional financial information, contact the County's Chief Financial Officer, 123 West Indiana Avenue, Room 300, DeLand, FL 32720. Additional financial information can be found on our web-site <a href="http://www.volusia.org/finance">http://www.volusia.org/finance</a>.