

## Who We Are

### Texas County Structure

Texas Counties are an extension of state government focusing on the judicial system, health and social services, law enforcement and upkeep of County roads. Counties have no ordinance-making powers other than those explicitly granted by state law. The Texas State Legislature meets every two years creating laws that affect both state and either directly or indirectly local government.

The County Judge and four Commissioners make up the governing body, called the Commissioners' Court. Some of their primary functions are to:

- Adopt the County budget and set the tax rate;
- Layout, establish, change, maintain and discontinue public county roads and bridges;
- Administer and provide for public welfare services;
- Establish a courthouse and a jail;
- Appoint numerous officials and fill vacancies in certain offices;
- Issue debt and let contracts; and
- Manage the County's overall operations, such as contract administration and human resources oversight.

Through the budget process the Commissioners' Court has departmental oversight and can determine the number of positions for each department, what fringe benefit options to provide employees, and whether or not a department can purchase equipment. Internal department operations are under the discretion of each elected official.

Officials elected on a county-wide basis include: the County Judge, Tax Assessor-Collector, Sheriff, County Clerk, District Clerk, District Attorney, County Courts-at-Law Judges, and District Judges. Officials elected from individual precincts include: the County Commissioners, Justices of the Peace and Constables.

Remaining officials and department heads are appointed, including the County Auditor, County Purchasing Agent, Elections Administrator, and County Health Officer.

## Website

You can find more information about Gregg County, its history, county offices, public meetings, financial reports, judicial records and other business-related information about Gregg County on our website at:

[www.co.gregg.tx.us](http://www.co.gregg.tx.us)

Detailed budget information is available on the County's website at:

[www.co.gregg.tx.us/government/budgets.asp](http://www.co.gregg.tx.us/government/budgets.asp)

### Other Important Links

East Texas Regional Airport

[www.easttexasairport.com](http://www.easttexasairport.com)

East Texas Industrial Airpark

[www.easttexasairpark.com](http://www.easttexasairpark.com)

### Gregg County Courthouse

101 E. Methvin

Longview, Texas 75601

Main Phone number: 903-758-6181



## Gregg County, Texas

### Budget in Brief



### Fiscal Year 2008-2009

### Commissioners Court

#### County Judge

Bill Stoudt

903-236-8420

#### Commissioner Precinct #1

Charles W. Davis

903-663-0400

#### Commissioner Precinct #2

R. Darryl Primo

903-759-3611

#### Commissioner Precinct #3

Bob Barbee

903-759-8962 or  
903-984-4653

#### Commissioner Precinct #4

John Mathis

903-981-1117

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality services that are responsive, respectful, and effective in a fair and equitable manner that will enhance the quality of life for Gregg County residents.

### **Vision**

- We will treat the residents of Gregg County with dignity and respect;
- We will continually strive to maintain the trust and credibility that the residents of Gregg County expect and deserve;
- We will be accountable to our citizens and responsive to their needs;
- We will embrace our historical heritages;
- We will continually explore new ways of innovation and service capabilities.

### **Goals**

- 1) Provide quality service to the citizens of Gregg County
- 2) Manage the public's resources with the highest integrity
- 3) Strive for efficiencies in all departments
- 4) Maintain accountability in all departments
- 5) Provide an equitable justice system that is equal to all
- 6) Promote the values of every employee, treating them with respect, fairness, and diversity
- 7) Preserve the historical culture of Gregg County
- 8) Retain community communications and improve relationships with all cities in Gregg County
- 9) Maintain a leadership role in regional issues
- 10) Promote and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Gregg County

## Gregg County...

### Origin

In 1873, Gregg County was created by the Thirteenth Legislature from parts of Upshur, Rusk and Harrison Counties and was named after a popular Confederate Army general named John Gregg who was killed in action on October 7, 1864. In 1930, Gregg County was rescued from the Great Depression by the discovery of the East Texas Oil Field, the largest pool of petroleum ever discovered in the continental 48 states. Oil and gas exploration and service industries dominated Gregg County's economy until the mid-1980's when crude oil dropped from \$28 to \$16 per barrel.

### Present Day

In the 1990's the County's civic leaders and public officials successfully began to diversify the area economy by attracting manufacturing and other businesses not associated with the petroleum industry. Today major employers include almost 40 manufacturing companies with over 10,000 employees and numerous non-manufacturing employers including hospitals, public schools, universities, city and county governments, and distribution. Longview, the County seat, serves as the regional hub for shopping, business, entertainment and medical facilities.

The current financial position of the County is attributed to the foresight of past and present County leaders. Their financial strategy to eliminate debt; form interlocal agreements with cities; and pay cash for capital expenditures allows the county to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Texas.

Presently, Gregg County has no bonded indebtedness and enough reserves to continue operating for several months in the event of disaster or economic crisis.

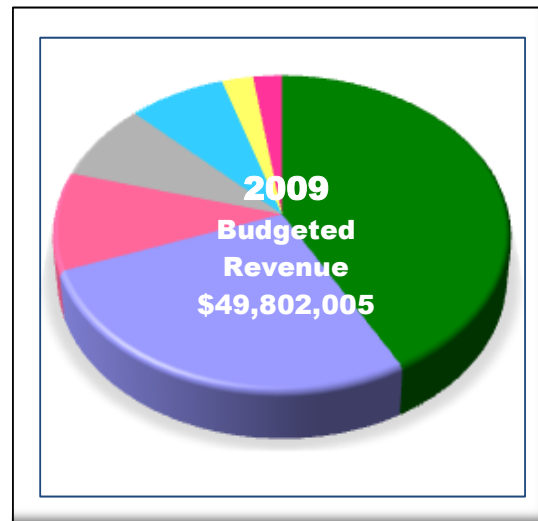
### Future

Although recent increases in the oil and gas industry boosted Gregg County's economy again, our leaders still rely on diversification to sustain us. We will continue to provide quality service as set out in the statutes and requested by our citizens. As we plan for the future we will maintain the trust we have established and remain accountable to our citizens.

## Where the Money Comes From

In Texas County government the Commissioners' Court sets the tax rate and property taxes are the primary source of income. Sales and other taxes are collected and distributed by the State Comptroller's office and are dependent on economic factors. Court costs and fees are set by statutes; and fines and forfeitures are set by the judges.

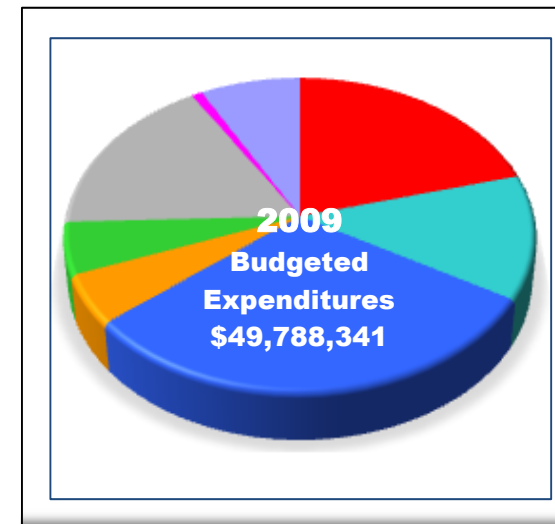
- ➔ **Property Tax** \$20,392,837 (42.1%) Current and delinquent taxes based on appraisals of Gregg County Appraisal District
- ➔ **Sales and Other Tax** \$13,525,000 (27%) Sales, motor vehicle & mixed beverage tax
- ➔ **User Fees** \$5,036,500 (10%) Fees of office or charges for services
- ➔ **Other** \$4,028,565 (8%) Jail contract operations, facilities rent, miscellaneous
- ➔ **Intergovernmental** \$3,858,908 (8%) Federal, State and Local government
- ➔ **Licenses & Permits** \$1,244,000 (3%) Federal, State and Local government
- ➔ **Interest on Investments** \$1,143,350 (2%) Interest Earned



## Where the Money Goes

The primary function of County government is public service and, like most service-oriented organizations, staffing costs account for 53% of total expenditures followed by operations at 35%, and capital expense at 11%.

- ➔ **Capital Outlay** \$3,847,837 (8%) Land, Buildings, and all Equipment
- ➔ **General Government** \$10,300,315 (21%) Administrative, Finance, Airport, Elections, etc.
- ➔ **Judicial** \$6,368,821 (13%) Courts, Attorneys, Law Library, Jurors, etc.
- ➔ **Public Safety** \$15,181,813 (30%) Sheriff, Jail, Constables, Probation., etc.
- ➔ **Health & Welfare** \$2,541,889 (5%) Indigent, Service Organizations, Veterans, etc.
- ➔ **Public Buildings** \$2,662,534 (5%) Facilities operations, utilities, repairs, etc.
- ➔ **Roads** \$8,486,896 (17%) Road & Bridge Maintenance, Road Materials, Rights-of-Way
- ➔ **Debt Service** \$398,236 (1%) Capital Lease on Equipment



## What Reserves Are

At the end of each year, reserves are either restricted or unrestricted. Gregg County's ending fund balance always exceeds the estimated (budgeted) amount as revenue projections are conservative and the budget can not be exceeded by law.

Restricted funds are set aside for specific purposes by state law or court order. Debt service and capital projects funds are also restricted funds.

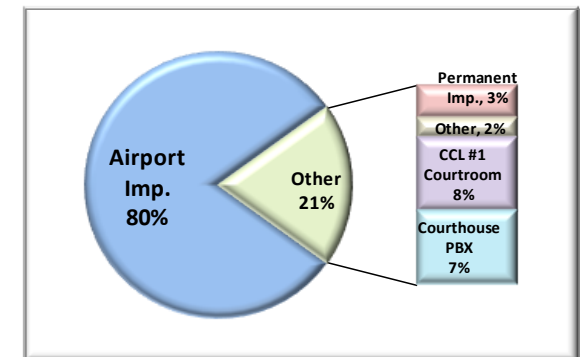
Unrestricted Funds are funds used for county operations are usually not restricted for specific use; however, these reserves cannot be spent unless they are budgeted during the next annual budget process.

Estimated ending balances are as follows:

General Fund	\$22,563,741
Road & Bridge Fund	587,272
Airport Maintenance Fund	285,236
Total estimated unrestricted reserves	\$23,436,249
All Records Management, Law Library Law Enforcement and other discretionary funds	\$3,583,513
General Fund restrictions	936,071
All Capital Projects Funds	13,635,349
Total estimated restricted reserves	\$18,154,933

## Capital Projects

Airport improvements, which are 80% of the total FY09 capital project budget, are funded by the Federal Aviation Administration on a matching basis, with Gregg County paying 5-10% of the cost. All other projects are paid with cash reserves.



**Future Capital Projects** under consideration are listed on our Capital Improvement Plan. These include continuation of Airport improvement plan; additional parking facilities, and various projects in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation i.e. SH 149, improvements to George Richey Road and Tryon Road.