



**COMMISSIONERS:**

**ERIC F. HINSON**  
District 1  
**DOUGLAS M. CROLEY**  
District 2  
**GENE MORGAN**  
District 3  
**BRENDA A. HOLT**  
District 4  
**SHERRIE D. TAYLOR**  
District 5

**GADSDEN COUNTY**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**EDWARD J. BUTLER**  
**GADSDEN COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX**

**ROBERT M. PRESNELL**  
County Administrator

**DEBORAH S. MINNIS**  
County Attorney

## **Gadsden County Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget Summary**

The Gadsden Board of County Commissioners on Monday held the second and final public hearing to adopt the official budget for the County's 2013/2014 budget years. The busy but productive process which started in May have included three public workshops and two public hearings. The Commissioners and staff are to be commended for the hard work that went into this process to produce a budget that not only provides basic services to our community but funds many needed improvements to provide quality services as well. Compared to the past fiscal year budget, there is an increase of \$2.2 million .The Board made it clear that the budget should provide better opportunities for our citizens, enhance the quality of living in Gadsden County and improve public confidence in local government.

The 2014 budget document is a balanced budget which includes no tax increases or fee increases to the citizens of Gadsden County. Over 1.5 million dollars were cut from the previous budget and directed towards capital projects or programs to better serve the citizens of Gadsden County. Also, approximately \$700,000 from the 2013 budget was

saved and will be placed into reserve. The County has been proactive in its fiscal management while maintaining healthy reserve levels.

A goal of the county this year was to become proactive about economic development. The budget includes a 60% increase in funding for economic development activities. Enhancing emergency services was another goal set by the board this year. It included funding for two new fire trucks and the addition of an ambulance to our fleet to improve response times. The Board also increased Library funding adding three new positions, extending library hours on Saturday and doubling the budget for the purchase of books and periodicals.

The County provided nearly half a million dollars to fund non-profit and community organizations like the Senior Citizen Centers, the Boys and Girls Club and The Gadsden Arts Center, and others to help make living in Gadsden County enjoyable for all citizens. Included in the budget also were funds to continue the summer youth program and make improvements to Friendship Park. Accompanying this funding for human needs the County also increased funding to improve the physical plant and transportation needs of the county. The board directed that capital funding in the Public Works department be made a priority to improve roadways and public safety. Eight county roads will receive a face-lift with over \$561k funded for road projects. The investment in safety and energy saving improvements to county building will pay big dividends in the future.