

Policy Issues

The following policy issues are presented for consideration as part of the proposed FY 2014-15 budgets.

1. Harris County will continue to focus on building reserves to maintain financial stability, maintain current high bond ratings and continue to reduce the need for short-term borrowing under tax anticipation notes. A recommendation will be provided to court during the first quarter of FY 2014-15 for the issuance of tax anticipation notes.
2. The roll over budget adjustments for departments will be presented to court for approval in May.
3. The Capital Improvements Plan will be presented on June 24 along with proposed budget adjustments to fund approved repair and replacement projects.
4. Mid-Year Review will be held on September 23 and will include the proposal for property tax rates to be approved by court in October.
5. A new Repair & Replacement (R&R) Committee will be established consisting of the directors of Architecture & Engineering, Facilities & Property Management and Information Technology Center along with the County Budget Officer to accumulate, evaluate and prioritize repair and replacement projects and make recommendations to Court.
6. All facility modifications with a cost exceeding \$25,000, other than those completed by Commissioner Precincts, require review by the R&R committee before they are submitted to court for approval.
7. The Public Infrastructure Department will continue the development of the facilities master plan related to the acquisition or disposal of properties and departmental relocations. All recommendations will be reviewed with Budget Management and presented to court for approval.
8. Budget Management will review the county travel policy to address funding sources for out-of-state travel and the possible simplification of low cost local travel requests and bring back recommendations for changes, if necessary.
9. Budget Management will continue to work with PID and the Commissioners to develop methods for funding infrastructure projects that are needed to support high growth areas in the county.
10. A list of recommended positions and changes is included for court approval.
11. The rates for contract patrol services will increase by 5% starting March 1, 2015.