



FOREWORD

BOARD OF
COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS



COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR

FAYE W. OUTLAW, MPA

Foreword

May 21, 2010

Honorable Commissioners:

Our County faces a daunting fiscal challenge to close a \$56 million operating budget shortfall by FY12. The sheer gravity of the size of this budget deficit is hard to imagine. Yet, one should easily realize that a deficit of this magnitude cannot be borne by the County's operations alone.

This cannot be made any clearer when looking at the numbers. Our general fund operating budget for FY11 is projected to be approximately \$52.7 million which makes it mathematically impossible for us to single-handedly absorb the cuts to deal with the FY12 \$56 million shortfall.

As the Board is aware, our budget woes don't start and stop with the general fund. The County has five other major funds with ongoing projected budget deficits such as the Mosquito Control fund, the Airport fund, the Utilities fund, the Transit MSTU fund as well as the Sports Complex.

The urgent question before us is *how* will we deal with this financial adversity? Our government, as we have come to know it, is being dramatically altered. Existing levels of mandated services cannot be sustained. Nor can non-essential programs requested and embraced by the community be maintained as provided in the past. The path we choose to address this new reality will require courage based on a calculated and realistic understanding of the consequences of our decisions. As staff, we will continue to do our level best to support the outcome of the Board's decisions and continue to provide courteous service to the public.

This Strategic Planning Session is intended to determine what our service funding levels will be as we move toward steering a path to fiscal sustainability for St. Lucie County. That path is a must travelled road of shared sacrifices of all entities funded in the operating budget. By banding together through this harrowing time in our budget history, we will be a stronger community when we come out of it. Everyone's assistance is required to make this happen!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faye Outlaw", written over a horizontal line.

Faye Outlaw
County Administrator

CHRIS DZADOVSKY, District No. 1 • DOUG COWARD, District No. 2 • PAULA A. LEWIS, District No. 3 • CHARLES GRANDE, District No. 4 • CHRIS CRAFT, District No. 5
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