

Overview

Since 2002, county lowered debt by 10%, reduced workforce by 20%+ and had a surplus last year. County stabilized it's bond rating.

Pension Obligation Bond (POB) plan done in 2009. Much like refinancing a home at a lower interest rate, plan saves taxpayers \$ 237 million.

Report on Previous Year

Public Safety: worked with Sheriff on correctional facilities & DA on Witness Protection program.

Long-term care: Expanded Family Care to include people under the age of 60 with developmental and physical disabilities – included \$4.5 million in budget.

Parks: won Gold Medal for best park system in the country. Opened aquatic center, crowds at beaches, new dog parks, new pavilion at the site of the old Coast Guard station, and added Music under Glass series at the Domes.

Transit: add 125 green and clean buses; system ranked at top vs. peer systems.

Human Services: Wraparound - program for emotionally disturbed youth - was chosen as to receive Harvard University's prestigious *Innovation in American Government* award.

Airport: served nearly 8 million passengers in 2009. Added Southwest, the Republic announced 800 jobs moving to MKE, then Air Tran hub. Average fares lower than 75 other airports in US.

Looking Ahead

Work with Racine Co. to place youth in Alternative to Corrections through Education - save \$200,000.

Contracting out for housekeeping will save taxpayers \$2.6 million.

Continue working with County Board leadership on 2010 budget – wage and benefit reforms.

Jobs Plan

Milwaukee County Works program - 100 projects/1,000 jobs with a \$208.4 million investment. Build America Bonds save taxpayers nearly \$3 million in interest payments; outstanding debt for county in 2012 will be 28% less than in 2002. Without accelerated building program, spending is down 4.9%.

2010 Budget includes \$50 million+ in structural expenditure reductions (\$200 million over 4 years).

Next Steps

Contracting out for security (like the federal government) and for basic maintenance in the parks will improve services and decrease costs.

Bidding out for the operations of the airport can open the door to a permanent funding stream for the transit system.

Cutting the property tax levy in the 2011 county budget will help keep residents and jobs within Milwaukee County.

Call on state government to eliminate the combined reporting tax law.

Open discussions on new ways of providing the services currently offered by Milwaukee County.