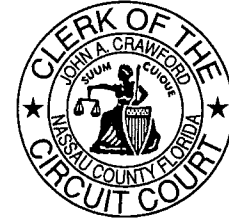




John A. Crawford  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Nassau County



September 8, 2008

Honorable Marianne Marshall, Chairman  
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners  
96160 Nassau Place  
Yulee, FL 32097

Dear Chairman Marshall and Commissioners:

Chapter 218.36 (2), Florida Statutes requires that each constitutional officer return to the taxpayers via the county commission each year those funds which are determined to be excess and unused in that officer's budget. During the first budget that I set as the new clerk for my office, I cut substantially from the budget set by the previous clerk and returned a sizable amount of unused funds to you. At the end of that year and each year since, I have in accordance with law and good conscience returned to you every dime possible that was derived from left-over budget and excess bank interest and fees earned in my office. My staff happily attests of our efforts in returning to the taxpayers, through the county commission, as much left-over budget and excess fees and interest earned as possible.

Hearing loud and clear the acrimonious comments among the commissioners for returning excess budget and fees to you the past two years, it is my intent to offer a solution to you that is just simply the right thing to do because it will directly help the taxpayers. Keeping the taxpayers in mind, I will cut my budget transfer request (copy attached) and ask *that you reduce the property taxes charged the citizens in the 08/09 budget proposal by that amount.* **That is the right thing to do. You certainly can't be criticized if you do right by the taxpayers!**

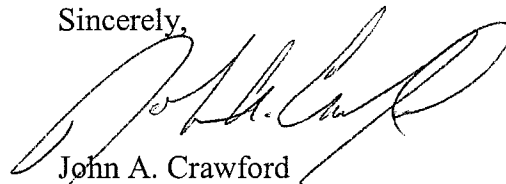
No matter how fair some may think the taxing level is in Nassau County, the fact is that many people are suffering at a time when the financial condition of government is better off than the financial condition of the people paying the taxes. While many candidates for office run on a platform of controlling the size and growth rate of government, few ever actually commit themselves to the task of reducing government once elected. Faced with a failing national economy, increased unemployment, higher than ever assessed property values, this seems to be the perfect time for our local government to try harder to reduce the burden of taxes on its citizens. **It is my**

Honorable Marianne Marshall, Chairman  
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**recommendation that the County Commission significantly reduce property taxes in the proposed 08/09 budget by reducing the budget between 5 to 10 million dollars.**

**The taxpayers need relief. It is the right thing to do to give it to them.** I am encouraged and stand ready to assist you and your staff in achieving this recommendation.

Sincerely,



John A. Crawford

JAC/ks

cc: David Hallman, Esq.  
Mr. Ed Sealover

**Clerk of the Circuit Court/Comptroller Nassau County, Florida  
FY 2008 & 2009 Budget Request Summary & Comparison**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>DOLLAR</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>REVISED</b>	<b>REQUESTED</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
Tourist Development Fee	24,875	28,462	3,587	14.4%
SAISS MSBU Charges	12,091	13,798	1,707	14.1%
Impact Fee Administration	300,000	136,143	(163,857)	-54.6%
Amelia Concourse Fee	17,973	17,807	(166)	-0.9%
Teen Court Services Fees (GF)	30,000	22,500	(7,500)	-25.0%
Marriage License Fee	21,000	15,700	(5,300)	-25.2%
Solemnize Marriages	3,000	2,400	(600)	-20.0%
Passport Fee	50,000	35,000	(15,000)	-30.0%
Recording Fees/Charges	710,200	455,630	(254,570)	-35.8%
Interest-Banking/SBA (Clerk)	54,209	34,000	(20,209)	-37.3%
Interest-Banking (BOCC)	350,000	200,000	(150,000)	-42.9%
Interest-SBA (BOCC)	350,000	200,000	(150,000)	-42.9%
Subtotal	1,923,348	1,161,440	(761,908)	-39.6%
<b>BOCC Services (payments received from BOCC):</b>				
Veterans Service Officer (BOCC)	-	47,909	47,909	100.0%
Rescue Billing Fee (BOCC)	115,000	124,500	9,500	8.3%
Nassau Amelia Utility Billing Fee (BOCC)	140,000	140,000	-	0.0%
Solid Waste Fee (BOCC)	50,000	23,000	(27,000)	-54.0%
Subtotal	305,000.00	335,409	30,409	10.0%
<b>BUDGET TRANSFER-BOCC</b>	<b>1,640,065</b>	<b>1,690,065</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>3,868,413</b>	<b>3,186,914</b>	<b>(681,499)</b>	<b>-17.6%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>DOLLAR</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>REVISED</b>	<b>REQUESTED*</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
Personal Services*	2,229,737	2,155,933	(73,804)	-3.3%
Operating	1,319,920	983,879	(336,041)	-25.5%
Capital	151,634	47,101	(104,533)	-68.9%
Reserve	167,122	-	(167,122)	-100.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,868,413</b>	<b>3,186,914</b>	<b>(681,499)</b>	<b>-17.6%</b>

\*Personal services do not include Health/Life Insurance and Workers' Compensation for either budget year as they are paid directly by the BOCC. (Budget amounts for the BOCC - Health/Life Insurance \$282,090 & Workers' Comp \$10,456)