COUNTY AID

Enabling Laws

Acts 773 & 1268 of 2007 A.C.A. §19-5-602

History and Organization

Established by A.C.A. §19-5-602, the County Aid Fund consists of:

- > General revenues provided under the Revenue Stabilization Law;
- > Special revenues including:
 - Arkansas Highway Revenue Distribution Law A.C.A. §27-70-201 et seq.
 - Special revenues specified in A.C.A. §19-6-301 subdivisions (74) and (117)
 - o 34% of those special revenues as specified in subdivision (20) of A.C.A. §19-6-301
 - 25% of all severance taxes other than those imposed upon saw timber and timber products as set out in subdivision (18) of A.C.A. §19-6-301 of the Revenue Classification Law

All distributions of general and special revenues are to be made within ten (10) days after the close of each calendar month to the respective counties.

General revenue is distributed with seventy-five percent (75%) divided equally among the seventy-five (75) counties of the state and twenty-five percent (25%) distributed on the basis of population according to the most recent federal decennial or special census, with each county to receive the proportion that its population bears to the total population of the state. The funds are received by the County Treasurer and are to be credited to the County General Fund to be used for general county purposes, unless otherwise appropriated by the Quorum Court.

The biennial budget request for the County Aid Fund is prepared and submitted by the Director of the Arkansas Association of Counties.

Agency Commentary

Developments in law over the years have established the need for adequate funding for counties in performing the mandates of the General Assembly. We sincerely appreciated the unprecedented commitment from Governor Beebe and the Legislature in the 2007 session to provide counties some additional funding. The additional funding was long overdue - but, still not sufficient to cover the mandates on county government. And, the additional funding was not from the state's general revenue. The additional \$4 million in county aid funding for each year of the current biennium was appropriated from the Property Tax Relief Fund. Additionally, counties of Arkansas were appropriated \$12 million in General Improvement Funds for infrastructure and capital needs.

It is well settled law in Arkansas that counties are political subdivisions of the state created for the public convenience in the administration of government. [See: Davis v. Wilson, 183 Ark. 271 (1931); Pruitt v. Sebastian County Coal and Mining Co., 215 Ark. 673 (1949); Sullivan, Admin. v. Pulaski County, 247

COUNTY AID - 0074 Page 193

Ark. 259 (1969); Chandler v. Pulaski County, 247 Ark. 262 (1969)]

The General Assembly has proclaimed under Arkansas Code Annotated 14-14-102 that: "A county is a political subdivision of the state for the more convenient administration of justice and the exercise of local legislative authority related to county affairs." These are two separate and distinct functions: (1) the state function of justice conveniently administered in accordance with law by county government, a political subdivision of the state; and (2) the local function of legislative and administrative authority relating to county affairs.

The Arkansas Supreme Court has explained: "It must be remembered that counties are still civil divisions of the state for political and judicial purposes and are the state's auxiliaries and instrumentalities in the administration of its government. They are political subdivisions of the state for the administration of justice. The word "county" signifies a portion of a state resulting from a division of the state into such areas for the better government thereof and the easier administration of justice. In these respects we have clearly held that nothing in Amendment 55 changed the state of the county insofar as its primary purposes and functions (one of which is the administration of justice) are concerned." [See: Beaumont, Judge v. Adkisson, Judge, 267 Ark. 511 (1980); Mears v. Hall, 263 Ark. 827 (1978)]

In order to assist counties with the ever-increasing costs of providing mandated services, the General Assembly created and funded a County Aid Fund beginning with the 1953/54 biennium. Since that time turnback dollars have increased very gradually. But, the percentage of state general revenue the counties receive has declined sharply - while at the same time the costs of delivering state mandated services have risen dramatically.

Unlike highway revenue turnback, which has a built-in mechanism for revenue growth - general revenue aid to counties is an arbitrary appropriation. That appropriation, for all practical purposes, was flat for a quarter of a century - from 1981 to 2006. For example: If county government had received a simple 3% annual adjustment in their county aid appropriation since 1981 the appropriation for 2008 would have been \$40,802,307 instead of the current \$23,741,546 (\$19,741,546 from the state's General Revenue Fund and \$4,000,000 from the surplus of the Property Tax Relief Fund).

Another point of concern is the amount of per capita funding that county government receives in comparison to the per capita amount received by municipalities. Please know that we do not begrudge the amount of funding received by the municipalities of Arkansas. We are certain that each city and town can use every cent received and more. However, to emphasize this discrepancy, let us call your attention to the numbers outlined on the following page:

Municipal General Revenue Aid

| • | Annual Gross General Revenue | \$27,506,526.00 |
|---|--|-------------------|
| • | Annual Additional Funding/Property Tax Relief Fund | \$ 4,000,000.00 |
| • | Less Property Reappraisal Deduction | (\$ 1,140,000.00) |
| • | Net Available for Use by Municipalities | \$30,366,526.00 |

 Per Capita Funding (Net Available Divided by Municipal Population = \$30,366,526/1,761,430 = \$17.24 per capita)

\$17.24

County General Revenue Aid

Annual Gross General Revenue \$19,741,546.00

Annual Additional Funding/Property Tax Relief Fund \$ 4,000,000.00

• Less Property Reappraisal Deduction (\$ 2,280,000.00)

Less Deputy Prosecutor Salary Deduction (\$ 5,459,621.28)

Net Available for Use by Counties \$ 16,001,924.00

Per Capita Funding (Net Available Divided by County
 Population = \$16,001,924.72/2,673,400 = \$5.99 per capita)

The numbers are what they are. We do not know why they are as they are - but, we do know they need to change. We cannot imagine that anyone could make a plausible argument as to why municipal per capita funding should be more than county per capita funding. In fact, it is county government that more often than municipalities, experiences the requisites of state government. We realize that this situation did not happen overnight - and will not be fixed overnight. But, we implore the Legislature to look at this situation and provide us with some help and relief. [A good start would be to relieve us of the almost \$5.5 million deduction for Deputy Prosecutor salaries...officers of the state court system.]

County government does not expect the State of Arkansas to pay for those things that are purely county responsibilities; but, we do expect the state to provide funding for those things that are state functions - simply being administered at the local level for the convenience of the state. We respectfully ask the State of Arkansas to provide adequate state funding to county government for the mandates we work under.

A partial list of the mandates on county government for which the State of Arkansas should bear responsibility include: (1) the administration of justice through the court system; (2) court records management; (3) responsibility for a portion of Deputy Prosecutors salaries (deduction from the General County Aid); (4) funding of the office operations for Deputy Prosecutors and to some degree Prosecutors; (5) funding of office operations for Public Defenders; (6) law enforcement as it relates to the court system; and (7) the cost of the General Election.

In light of these arguments on behalf of Arkansas County Government - but with the restraining thought of "taking one step at a time" the Association of Arkansas Counties request that county aid be funded for the 2009-2011 biennium as follows:

2009-2010 \$19,741,546 General Revenue \$1,184,493 6% COLA \$20,926,039

\$4,000,000 Property Tax Relief Fund \$24,926,039

2010-2011 \$20,926,039 General Revenue \$1,255,562 6% COLA \$22,181,601 \$4,000,000 Property Tax Relief Fund \$26,181,601

We also request that the State of Arkansas relieve the counties of Arkansas of the current \$5,459,621.28 obligation for Deputy Prosecutor salaries that is deducted from our gross general revenue aid. With the combination of the requested COLA each year of the biennium and the relief of the \$5.5 million current obligation for officers of the state court system our per capita funding would increase to \$8.47 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and \$8.94 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year - still roughly one-half of the current general revenue per capita funding for municipalities.

One way to get our per capita funding closer to that of municipal government would be to give county government special consideration in the appropriation of "general improvement funds". The \$12 million in general improvement funds appropriated to the counties in the 2007 legislative session was a much needed boost to our capital and infrastructure needs. There is no doubt that county government deserves a portion of your general improvement funds each biennium. That is one way the state can help meet their obligation to fund the state mandates on county government - a very wise use of that money.

The Association of Arkansas Counties respectfully requests that the amounts so requested be fully funded and placed in Category A of the Revenue Stabilization Act. In light of our 26 year history from 1981 through 2006 of receiving larger cuts than increases in general revenue aid - we feel our request is more than fair. Please review with due diligence as you consider the granting of our request.

Thank you for the progress on that was made on the "county funding front" in the 2007 Legislative Session. Let's continue the progress!

The counties of Arkansas and the State of Arkansas are linked; solutions can be, too. We serve the same people. We share the same base. If we focus on results we can continue to build a meaningful state-county partnership.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

AUDIT OF:

COUNTY AID

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

Findings Recommendations

The Division of Legislative Audit does not perform an audit for the Agency.

COUNTY AID - 0074 Page 196

Publications

A.C.A. 25-1-204

| | Statutory | Requ | General Co | # of | Reason(s) for Continued |
|------|---------------|----------|------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Name | Authorization | Governor | | # of Copies | Publication and Distribution |
| N/A | N/A | N | N | 0 | N/A |

Department Appropriation Summary

Historical Data

2008-2009

2007-2008

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

2010-2011

| l e | | | 2000 20 | | | | | | 2005 20 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Appropriation | Actual | Pos | Budget | Pos | Authorized | Pos | Base Level | Pos | Agency | Pos | Executive | Pos | Base Level | Pos | Agency | Pos | Executive | Pos |
| 073 General Revenue to Counties | 12,662,764 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 20,926,039 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 22,181,601 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 0 |
| 074 Special Revenue to Counties | 81,601,506 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 | 160,000,000 | 0 |
| 190 Mineral Lease | 547,409 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 | 20,000,000 | 0 |
| 1CW Military Land Sale | 90,145 | 0 | 1,409,855 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1CX Military Land Taxing Unit Distribution | 150,242 | 0 | 2,349,758 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 738 Real Property Tax Reduction-Counties | 204,543,485 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 250,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 250,000,000 | 0 |
| Total | 299,595,551 | 0 | 457,501,159 | 0 | 453,741,546 | 0 | 457,741,546 | 0 | 458,926,039 | 0 | 453,741,546 | 0 | 453,741,546 | 0 | 456,181,601 | 0 | 449,741,546 | 0 |
| Funding Sources | | % | | % | | | | % | | % | | % | | % | | % | | % |
| General Revenue 4000010 | 12,662,764 | 4.2 | 19,741,546 | 4.3 | | | 19,741,546 | 4.3 | 20,926,039 | 4.6 | 19,741,546 | 4.4 | 19,741,546 | 4.4 | 22,181,601 | 4.9 | 19,741,546 | 4.4 |
| Federal Revenue 4000020 | 787,796 | 0.3 | 23,759,613 | 5.2 | | | 24,000,000 | 5.2 | 24,000,000 | 5.2 | 24,000,000 | 5.3 | 20,000,000 | 4.4 | 20,000,000 | 4.4 | 20,000,000 | 4.4 |
| Special Revenue 4000030 | 286,144,991 | 95.5 | 414,000,000 | 90.5 | | | 414,000,000 | 90.4 | 414,000,000 | 90.2 | 410,000,000 | 90.4 | 414,000,000 | 91.2 | 414,000,000 | 90.8 | 410,000,000 | 91.2 |
| Total Funds | 299,595,551 | 100.0 | 457,501,159 | 100.0 | | | 457,741,546 | 100.0 | 458,926,039 | 100.0 | 453,741,546 | 100.0 | 453,741,546 | 100.0 | 456,181,601 | 100.0 | 449,741,546 | 100.0 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Funding) | 0 | | 0 | | | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Grand Total | 299,595,551 | | 457,501,159 | | | | 457,741,546 | | 458,926,039 | | 453,741,546 | | 453,741,546 | | 456,181,601 | | 449,741,546 | |

2009-2010

Military Land Sale (1CW) and Military Land Taxing Unit Distribution (1CX) are biennial appropriations authorized for \$1,500,000 and \$2,500,000 respectively. FY09 Budgeted amount has been adjusted to reflect the carry forward balance of appropriation between fiscal years.

Special Language authorizes carry forward of appropriation and funding for all County Aid appropriations.

Real Property Tax Reduction - Counties (738) includes a one-time appropriation of \$4 million each year of the biennum authorized by Act 1268 of 2007, contingent upon available surplus funding.

2008-2009

Agency Position Usage Report

| | | FY20 | 06 - 20 | 07 | | | FY2008 - 2009 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|----------|---------|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------|--------|------------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| Authorized | | | | % of | | | | Unbudgeted | | | | Budgeted | | Unbudgeted | | | |
| in Act | Filled | Unfilled | Total | Total | Authorized Unused | in Act | Filled | Unfilled | Total | Total | Authorized Unused | in Act | Filled | Unfilled | Total | Total | Authorized Unused |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 % |

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 073 - General Revenue to Counties

Funding Sources: MLC - County Aid Fund

The following appropriations provide spending authority for the Treasurer's Office to distribute general, special and federal funds to counties:

- General Revenue to Counties (073)
- > Special Revenue to Counties (074)
- Unanticipated Special Revenue Mineral Lease (190)
- Military Land Sale (1CW)
- Military Land Taxing Unit Distribution (1CX)

The Association of Arkansas Counties is requesting a general revenue increase (073) in Grants and Aid of \$1,184,493 in FY10 and \$2,440,055 in FY11, representing a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment each year (compounded in the 2nd year) to provide for state-mandated administration of justice and election functions provided by the counties.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Base Level for General Revenue to Counties of \$19,741,546 each year of the biennium. Continued state support to offset a portion of all county expenses for statewide primary elections, expenses for court reporters and administrative assistants, significant amounts for the public defender and deputy prosecuting attorney systems, as well as a one-time General Revenue Allotment Reserve transfer of \$12 millon last biennium does not allow increases in aid to counties. The Executive Recommendation also provides for Agency Request to continue Special and Federal Revenues received by the counties at the current appropriated levels.

Appropriation: 073 - General Revenue to Counties

Funding Sources: MLC - County Aid Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

| | | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | | 2010-2011 | |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Commitment Item | | Actual | Budget | Authorized | Base Level | Agency | Executive | Base Level | Agency | Executive |
| Grants and Aid | 5100004 | 12,662,764 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 20,926,039 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 22,181,601 | 19,741,546 |
| Total | | 12,662,764 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 20,926,039 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 22,181,601 | 19,741,546 |
| Funding Source | ces | | | | | | | | | |
| General Revenue | 4000010 | 12,662,764 | 19,741,546 | | 19,741,546 | 20,926,039 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 22,181,601 | 19,741,546 |
| Total Funding | | 12,662,764 | 19,741,546 | | 19,741,546 | 20,926,039 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 22,181,601 | 19,741,546 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Funding | g) | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 12,662,764 | 19,741,546 | | 19,741,546 | 20,926,039 | 19,741,546 | 19,741,546 | 22,181,601 | 19,741,546 |

Special Language provides for carry forward of appropriation and funding. The carry forward amount for FY09 was \$7,078,782.

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation: 073 - General Revenue to Counties

Funding Sources: MLC - County Aid Fund

Agency Request

| | Change Level | 2009-2010 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL | 2010-2011 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL |
|-----|------------------|------------|-----|------------|---------|------------|-----|------------|---------|
| BL | Base Level | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 100.0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 100.0 |
| C01 | Existing Program | 1,184,493 | 0 | 20,926,039 | 106.0 | 2,440,055 | 0 | 22,181,601 | 112.4 |

Executive Recommendation

| | Change Level | 2009-2010 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL | 2010-2011 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL |
|-----|------------------|------------|-----|------------|---------|------------|-----|------------|---------|
| BL | Base Level | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 100.0 | 19,741,546 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 100.0 |
| C01 | Existing Program | 0 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 100.0 | 0 | 0 | 19,741,546 | 100.0 |

| | Justification |
|-----|---|
| C01 | The Association of Arkansas Counties is requesting a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment for the first year of the biennium and a 12% (1st year 6% + 2nd |
| | year 6% compounded) COLA in the second year for those things that are state functions simply being administered at the local level for the convenience of the state. We respectfully ask the State of Arkansas to provide adequate state funding to county government for the mandates we |
| | work under. A partial list of the mandates on county government for which the State of Arkansas should bear responsibility include: (1) the |
| | administration of justice through the court system; (2) court records management; (3) responsibility for a portion of Deputy Prosecutors salaries |
| | (deduction from the General County Aid); (4) funding of the office operations for Deputy Prosecutors and to some degree Prosecutors; (5) funding of |
| | office operations for Public Defenders; (6) law enforcement as it relates to the court system; and (7) the cost of the General Election. |

Appropriation: 074 - Special Revenue to Counties

Funding Sources: MLC - County Aid Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

| | | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | | 2010-2011 | |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Commitment Item | | Actual | Budget | Authorized | Base Level | Agency | Executive | Base Level | Agency | Executive |
| Grants and Aid | 5100004 | 81,601,506 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 |
| Total | | 81,601,506 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 |
| Funding Source | s | | | | | | | | | |
| Special Revenue | 4000030 | 81,601,506 | 160,000,000 | | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 |
| Total Funding | | 81,601,506 | 160,000,000 | | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Funding) | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 81,601,506 | 160,000,000 | | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 | 160,000,000 |

Special Language provides for carry forward of appropriation and funding. The carry forward amount for FY09 was \$78,398,494.

Appropriation: 190 - Mineral Lease **Funding Sources:** MLC - County Aid Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

| | | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | | 2010-2011 | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Commitment Item | | Actual | Budget | Authorized | Base Level | Agency | Executive | Base Level | Agency | Executive |
| Grants and Aid | 5100004 | 547,409 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| Total | | 547,409 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| Funding Sour | ces | | | | | | | | | |
| Federal Revenue | 4000020 | 547,409 | 20,000,000 | | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| Total Funding | | 547,409 | 20,000,000 | | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Funding | ng) | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 547,409 | 20,000,000 | | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |

Special Language provides for carry forward of appropriation and funding. The carry forward amount for FY09 was \$19,452,591.

Appropriation: 1CW - Military Land Sale **Funding Sources:** MLC - County Aid Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

| | | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | | 2010-2011 | |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Commitment Item | | Actual | Budget | Authorized | Base Level | Agency | Executive | Base Level | Agency | Executive |
| Grants and Aid | 5100004 | 90,145 | 1,409,855 | 0 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 90,145 | 1,409,855 | 0 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Funding So | urces | | | | | | | | | |
| Federal Revenue | 4000020 | 90,145 | 1,409,855 | | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | | 90,145 | 1,409,855 | | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Fun | iding) | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 90,145 | 1,409,855 | | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

This is a biennial appropriation authorized for \$1,500,000. FY09 Budgeted amount has been adjusted to reflect the carryforward balance of appropriation between fiscal years of \$1,409,855.

Appropriation: 1CX - Military Land Taxing Unit Distribution

Funding Sources: MLC - County Aid Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

| | | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | | 2010-2011 | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Commitment Item | | Actual | Budget | Authorized | Base Level | Agency | Executive | Base Level | Agency | Executive |
| Grants and Aid | 5100004 | 150,242 | 2,349,758 | 0 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 150,242 | 2,349,758 | 0 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Funding Sou | rces | | | | | | | | | |
| Federal Revenue | 4000020 | 150,242 | 2,349,758 | | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | | 150,242 | 2,349,758 | | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Fund | ling) | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 150,242 | 2,349,758 | | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

This is a biennial appropriation authorized for \$2,500,000. FY09 Budgeted amount has been adjusted to reflect the carryforward balance of appropriation between fiscal years of \$2,349,758.

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 738 - Real Property Tax Reduction-Counties

Funding Sources: TPR - Property Tax Relief Trust

Amendment 79 to the Arkansas Constitution proposed limiting the increase in the assessed value of a taxpayer's real property after a countywide reappraisal and a required property tax credit of at least three hundred dollars (\$300) on homestead property. This amendment was adopted at the November 2000 general election and became effective January 1, 2001.

This appropriation provides spending authority for the Treasurer's Office to distribute special revenue to counties based upon a property tax reduction. Act 1268 of 2007 provided an additional one-time distribution of \$4 million each year of the biennium, contingent upon available surplus funding.

The Association of Arkansas Counties requests the continuation of Base Level of \$254,000,000 for this appropriation each year of the biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for \$250,000,000 each year of the biennium. The \$4 million distribution each year of the previous biennium as authorized by Act 1268 of 2007 was intended to provide temporary assistance to the Counties from the Property Tax Relief Fund.

Appropriation: 738 - Real Property Tax Reduction-Counties

Funding Sources: TPR - Property Tax Relief Trust

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | 2010-2011 | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Commitment Item | | Actual | Budget | Authorized | Base Level | Agency | Executive | Base Level | Agency | Executive |
| Refunds/Reimbursements | 5110014 | 204,543,485 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 |
| Total | | 204,543,485 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 |
| Funding Source | s | | | | | | | | | |
| Special Revenue | 4000030 | 204,543,485 | 254,000,000 | | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 |
| Total Funding | | 204,543,485 | 254,000,000 | | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Funding) | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 204,543,485 | 254,000,000 | | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 254,000,000 | 250,000,000 |

Special Language provides for carry forward of appropriation and funding. The carry forward amount for FY09 was \$49,456,515.

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation: 738 - Real Property Tax Reduction-Counties

Funding Sources: TPR - Property Tax Relief Trust

Agency Request

| Change Level | 2009-2010 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL | 2010-2011 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL |
|---------------|-------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------------|-----|-------------|---------|
| BL Base Level | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 100.0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 100.0 |

Executive Recommendation

| | Change Level | 2009-2010 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL | 2010-2011 | Pos | Cumulative | % of BL |
|-----|-------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------------|-----|-------------|---------|
| BL | Base Level | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 100.0 | 254,000,000 | 0 | 254,000,000 | 100.0 |
| C19 | Executive Changes | (4,000,000) | 0 | 250,000,000 | 98.4 | (4,000,000) | 0 | 250,000,000 | 98.4 |

| | | Justification |
|---|-----|---|
| I | C19 | The \$4 million distribution each year of the previous biennium as authorized by Act 1268 of 2007 was intended to provide temporary assistance to |
| 1 | | the counties from the Property Tax Relief Fund due to a projected surplus. Therefore, this appropriation amount is not recommended. |