

# The Budget Process

The budget has several major purposes. It transforms the County's long-range plans and policies into services and programs, serves as a vehicle to communicate these plans to the public, details the costs of County services and programs, and outlines the revenues (taxes and fees) that support the County's services, including the rate of taxation for the coming fiscal year. Once the budget has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, it becomes a work plan of objectives to be accomplished during the next fiscal year.

Departments are accountable for budgetary control throughout the fiscal year. The Department of Management and Budget examines expenditure patterns, compares the patterns to budget plans, and corrective action, if necessary, is taken during the fiscal year.

The following diagram illustrates the budget phases which span the fiscal year that begins July 1.



