

# Technology Transparency Objectives of 2012

It shall be the stated goal of Lawrence County Government to have a government that is as transparent and open as possible. The following objectives shall serve as guidelines on how to achieve this goal:

**1) All Meeting Information Shall Be Made Public:** The County's website shall post all future board meetings with a stated agenda, date and time. The website shall regularly post minutes of past meetings as well as resolution and agenda packets so the public knows what information was used during the decision making process.

## **2) Contacting County Officials and Departments**

Being accessible to the public is essential to the function of county government. Thus, providing contact information for county officials and departments is vital:

- **Elected Officials:** Each elected official shall post at least 1 email address and 1 telephone number on their respective web page so the public can easily contact them. Elected officials shall also list any committee assignments they may have along with conflict of interests they may have.
- **Administrative Officials/Departments:** Each administrative official/department head shall post at least 1 email address and 1 telephone number on their respective web page so the public can easily contact them. Each department within county government shall also list hours of operation, duties and jurisdictions as well as any pertinent information about the department.
- **Appointed Boards and Commissions:** Any and all appointed board and commissions shall list its membership on the county website along with contact information for board members along with any pertinent information such as meeting times and agendas.

## **3) Make Financial Information Public**

Lawrence Countians have a right to know how their taxpayer dollars are being spent. Posting comprehensive and thorough financial data will allow citizens to see how tax dollars are being spent and judge how efficient their government is:

- **County Expenditures:** The county's website shall have a web page solely dedicated to county expenditures. Any expenditure that is voted upon by the County Legislative Body shall be posted on this web page so the public will know how their tax dollars are being spent.
- **Taxes and Fees:** The county's website shall have a web page solely dedicated to listing any and all taxes and fees levied by county government. This shall contain information about sales tax, property tax, wheel tax, income tax as well as any residential or business fees.
- **County Budget:** The county's website shall have a web page solely dedicated to the county's budget. The current fiscal year budget shall be posted on this web page along with the three previous budgets.
- **Audit Information:** The county shall have a web page dedicated solely for county audit information. The current fiscal year audit information shall be posted on the web page along with the three previous audit reports by the State of Tennessee.

**4) Make All County Contracts Public:** The county's website shall have a web page solely dedicated to county contracts. The information on this page shall include all laws governing county contracts as well as information related to bids placed during each bid process along with any other relevant information regarding county contracts, especially those that are over \$10,000.

**5) Freedom of Information Requests:** The county shall have a web page solely dedicated to Freedom of Information Act requests from the general public. Having this page would allow citizens to easily request information from county government. Requested information must be produced in accordance with State law and in a timely manner by the official/department in question.

Once adopted, the technology committee shall oversee the progress and the continued compliance with the aforementioned objectives.