

Department: County Management

Program Contact: Tim Mercer

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program

Program Offer Stage: As Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Ownership & Parcel Management Program, within the Division of Assessment, Recording, and Taxation (DART) is responsible for making real property ownership changes, adding sale information to the tax roll, and maintaining property information and property tax roll descriptions. Through examination of recorded and unrecorded documents, this program verifies the documentation and ensures that the documentation is acceptable for ownership transfer and processing. Program staff provide direct customer service for both the public and internal staff.

Program Summary

The Ownership & Parcel Management Program, within the Division of Assessment, Recording and Taxation (DART), updates and maintains the ownership records and property information for real property tax accounts. Recorded documents, such as deeds, contracts and assignments and unrecorded documentation, such as marriage records, court orders, and death certificates, are used to update the tax roll. Accurate ownership information is essential for DART programs to ensure that tax statements and various notices are sent to the correct party. Additionally, the group processes voucher actions of partition plats, subdivisions, condominiums, and property line adjustments. This information is also used for the production of county maps. Property sales are utilized by the Valuation Section in the process of updating property values. Developed databases enable related work units to access shared data, thereby reducing transfer time and the need for paper records. The group also maintains a transaction file for complex transfers, which is maintained for permanent retention on microfilm. The Program teams interface with the public through the organization's soft phone system, at the public counter, through mail, and by email. The Ownership team also maintains a Digital Research Room for the public to access records through a database.

COVID-19-related impacts:

Due to COVID-19, the majority of the team telework and will continue so going forward at a level that ensures all services are provided in a timely and equitable manner. The Digital Research Room is currently closed, but is equipped to open to the public on an appointment only basis with limited capacity once the pandemic situation improves. Currently, a limited office presence is needed in order to process mail, fulfill appointment times for the public, and do other duties that cannot be performed out of the office.

The Recording and Ownership unit have had a significant increase in the number of ownership transfers that need to be processed and are due to the low interest rate. This increase has had a significant impact on the workload. Over the next year, the hope is that this number will stabilize.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of ownership changes processed	25,280	30,000	29,000	29,000
Outcome	Average number of days to complete ownership changes	13	5	5	5

Performance Measures Descriptions

The "Number of Ownership Changes Processed" is a combination of ownership changes processed from actual recorded deeds and ownership changes transferred with unrecorded documents (approximately 5% of transfers are from unrecorded documentation). The "Average Number of Days to Complete Ownership Changes" is tracked manually by staff by logging both the date the work is begun and the date of completion. Those numbers are then combined and divided by the actual number of working days in the fiscal year.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Functions in this program are required under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapters 92-93,100,198-199,205,222,306-308,457,477-478. Additionally, ORS 306.115 assigns statewide general supervision of the property tax system to the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR). Through the CAFFA Grant process described in ORS 294.175, the DOR determines the acceptable level of assessment and taxation (A&T) staffing. The DOR has determined that DART staffing is already at the minimally acceptable level to perform their A&T functions. Any reduction to this program may jeopardize this grant revenue.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$729,481	\$0	\$763,863	\$0
Contractual Services	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,150	\$0
Internal Services	\$118,917	\$0	\$126,366	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$850,198	\$0	\$891,679	\$0
Program Total:	\$850,198		\$891,679	
Program FTE	7.20	0.00	7.20	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$169,992	\$0	\$172,739	\$0
Total Revenue	\$169,992	\$0	\$172,739	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Participation in the Oregon Department of Revenue County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Grant provides reimbursement of approximately 15% of Assessment & Taxation program expenditures. Grant amounts vary depending upon the overall state-wide CAFFA pool and the allocated percentage to each participating county. Multnomah County's total annual share of CAFFA is estimated at \$3,004,161. Allocated \$172,739 to DART Ownership & Parcel Management program. Remaining Program support is provided by General Fund revenues.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 72026 DART Ownership & Parcel Management