

Budget 'on target'

Assistant administrator says a third quarter

By **CARLOS GALARZA**
carlos@dailyjm.com

WALHALLA — Oconee County should have the necessary revenue to cover its expenses in the current budget year, Assistant Administrator Kendra Brown told County Council this week.

Brown, who also heads the Finance Department, reiterated that her projections are "rough

estimates" but give a good idea of where the county stands with 39 days before the close of fiscal 2008-09.

In issuing her third quarter financial report during Tuesday night's County Council meeting, Brown projected revenues of \$2.6 million still left to be collected.

If those projected revenues come in, and combined with the roughly \$11 million in the

budget still unspent, it should cover about \$12 million in projected expenditures remaining, according to Brown's forecast. The current budget year ends June 30.

"I think we're on target," Brown said during her presentation. "These projections are rough estimates, but I think we're in pretty good shape."

As of March 31, \$36.1 million in revenues had been col-

in Oconee County

finance report shows county in good shape

lected and \$25.8 million in total expenditures had been made year to date, which left an excess of \$10.2 million over expenditures.

The bulk of the revenue brought in to date, about 80 percent, came from taxes, according to information provided in Brown's report.

The original 2008-09 county budget estimated total revenues at \$40.2 million, but it

was \$4.1 million short as of March 31.

With Brown projecting that another \$2.6 million in revenues would be collected, that would still leave a hole in the budget.

However, Brown felt confident that the county would not face a large decrease in the fund balance.

The final fund balance at the end of the current fis-

cal year could force council's hand as it moves to finalize the proposed \$45.1 million budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Council Chairman Reg Dexter said council's budget committee has pretty much completed reviewing every line item in the proposed budget. He expects to schedule one more workshop to take a complete look at the final product.