

# Resolution #9-2010/2011

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Grundy County Board of Supervisors adopts the following Intangible Assets Policy for GASB Statement 51, Accounting and Financial Reporting:

## Grundy County Intangible Assets Policy

GASB Statement 51, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Intangible Assets*, is effective **beginning July 1, 2009** (FY 2010).

### Identifiable

An intangible asset should be recognized in the statement of net assets only if it is **identifiable** which means the asset is either:

- a) separable (i.e. it can be separated/divided from the government and sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged) or
- b) arose from contractual or other legal rights, regardless of whether those rights are transferable or separable.

### Criteria

GASB Statement 51 defines intangible assets as assets that are **identifiable** and possess all of the following characteristics:

- lack of physical substance,
- nonfinancial nature (not in monetary form like cash or investment securities) and
- initial useful life extending beyond a single reporting period.

Examples of intangible assets include easements, land use rights (i.e. water rights, timber rights and mineral rights), patents, trademarks and copyrights. **In addition, intangible assets include computer software that is purchased, licensed or internally generated (including websites) as well as outlays associated with an internally generated modification of computer software.**

Intangible assets can be purchased or licensed, acquired through nonexchange transactions or internally generated.

All intangible assets subject to the provisions of GASB Statement 51 should be classified as capital assets. Accordingly, existing authoritative guidance related to the accounting and financial reporting for capital assets (i.e. recognition, measurement, presentation, disclosure, etc.) should be applied to intangible assets as applicable.

### Exclusions

GASB Statement 51 applies to all intangible assets except: (a) assets acquired or created primarily for purposes of directly obtaining income or profit (these intangible assets should be considered investments), (b) assets from capital lease transactions reported by lessees, except licensing agreements to lease commercially available computer software, and (c) goodwill created through the combination of a government and another entity.

## **Threshold for Capitalization**

A threshold is to be consistently applied by all departments and offices of the County for financial reporting purposes. All intangible assets **at, or above \$25,000** must be reported for the Annual Financial Report (AFR), all other intangible assets are excluded.

## **Measurement/Recognition**

*Effective July 1, 2009*, intangible assets exceeding the County's threshold should be recorded at actual historical cost. For business-type activities and enterprise funds capitalized interest and ancillary charges, if any, should be included in the historical cost.

Only direct costs will be capitalized (indirect costs will not be included).

Intangible assets received in a nonexchange transaction (i.e. donated) are to be recorded at their estimated fair value at the time of acquisition.

The fair value of an asset is the amount at which the asset could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in forced or liquidation sale. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to arbitrarily assign a nominal value to a donated intangible asset without applying a rational technique to estimate its fair value.

The threshold for intangible assets applies to individual assets and it is not acceptable to account for items in aggregate to meet the threshold limitations.

For **internally generated intangible assets**, outlays incurred by the government's personnel, or by a third-party contractor on behalf of the government, for development of internally generated intangible assets should be capitalized.

For **internally generated computer software**, outlays incurred during the application development stage (see next page) will be capitalized if they exceed the threshold. These outlays include the initial purchase of the computer software/license and modifications made to the software before it is placed into operation. The initial purchase of the software/license and modifications made should be analyzed **separately** for capitalization purposes (do not aggregate).

Costs incurred prior to July 1, 2009, for internally generated computer software projects in the application development stage will not be capitalized. However, costs incurred July 1, 2009 and beyond, for these projects will be capitalized, if exceeding the County's threshold.

Computer software licenses purchased/renewed will not be aggregated. Each individual license purchased/renewed will be measured against the County's threshold and the useful life must extend beyond a single reporting period in order for the license to be capitalized.

## **Internally Generated Intangible Assets**

Internally generated intangible assets are created or produced by the government or an entity contracted by the government, or they are acquired from a third party but require more than minimal incremental effort on the part of the government to begin to achieve their expected level of service capacity.

Outlays related to the development of an internally generated intangible asset that is **identifiable** should be capitalized only upon the occurrence of all three of the following: