

Johnson County Capital Asset Capitalization and Threshold Policy

Capital Assets are major assets that are used in governmental operations and that benefit more than a single fiscal period. Johnson County will report the following major categories of capital assets that have an estimated useful life of more than one (1) year.

1. Land
2. Intangible Assets
3. Construction in progress
4. Buildings
5. Improvements other than buildings
6. Furnishings and equipment
7. Right to use leased asset
8. Infrastructure

Land – Land is always capitalized as a separate capital asset in its own right, even if it is closely associated with some other capital asset. Thus, the land under a building or highway must be classified as land rather than included as part of the cost of the building or highway. The amount capitalized as land should include any land preparation costs that will have an indefinite useful life. Land normally is not depreciated because it has an indefinite useful life. The capitalization threshold for land will be set at \$25,000, with an indefinite useful life.

Intangible Assets – Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement #51 deals with the reporting of intangible assets in our financial statements. GASB #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. It requires us to record and report intangible assets such as easements, land use rights (i.e. water rights, timber rights and mineral rights), patents, trademarks and copyrights. In addition, computer software that is purchased, licensed or internally generated (including websites) as well as outlays associated with an internally generated modification of computer software. The capitalization threshold for intangible assets will be set at \$25,000, with an estimated useful life between 2 to 30 years.

Construction in Progress – Is an asset class in which you record the costs directly associated with constructing a capital asset. Once the asset is placed in service, all costs associated with it that are stored in the construction in progress account are shifted into whichever capital asset account is most appropriate for the asset. Costs in the construction in progress account are not depreciated until the asset is placed in service.

Buildings – Building is an asset class used to account for permanent (non-moveable) structures. The amount reported should include any costs incurred to increase the

service utility of a building or to extend its total estimated useful life (improvements or betterments). The amount should also include restoration costs incurred as the result of capital asset impairment. The capitalization threshold for buildings will be set at \$25,000 with an estimated useful life between 15 to 40 years.

Improvements other than buildings – Are permanent (non-moveable) improvements to land that have a limited useful life (land improvements). Examples include fences, retaining walls, parking lots, and most landscaping. The capitalization threshold for improvements other than buildings is \$25,000 with an estimated useful life between 10 and 40 years.

Furnishings and equipment – Is an asset class to account for moveable items. Some examples include Secondary Roads equipment and vehicles. The capitalization threshold for furnishings and equipment is \$5,000 with an estimated useful life between 2 and 30 years.

Right to use leased asset – Is a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. The capitalization threshold for right to use leased assets is \$5,000 with an estimated useful life between 2 and 30 years.

Infrastructure Assets – Are long-lived capital assets that are stationary in nature and normally can be preserved for a significantly greater number of years than most capital assets. Examples of infrastructure assets include roads, bridges, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, and lighting systems. The capitalization threshold for infrastructure assets will be set at \$50,000, with an estimated useful life of 20 to 65 years.

Capital assets are to be reported at historical cost. This should include capitalized interest and ancillary charges necessary to place the asset into its intended location and condition for use. Ancillary charges include costs that are directly attributable to asset acquisition. The historical cost should include the cost of any subsequent additions or improvements, which would extend the expected useful life of the asset but exclude the cost of repairs or routine maintenance. Items acquired to extend the life of a previously acquired asset are not required to be inventoried but are added to the historical cost of the asset and capitalized. Maintenance costs are to be expensed rather than capitalized. The independent judgment of capital improvement versus repair or maintenance will be distinguished by the asset owner on a case-by-case basis. Trade-in value, if any, will be deducted from the asset cost. Additionally, if the asset traded was not fully depreciated, the ending book value will be added to the cash paid to determine the capitalized cost of the new asset. A trade-in can be defined as exchanging an existing asset as part of an agreement to acquire a new asset

Capital assets that are being depreciated will be reported net of accumulated

depreciation in the statement of net position. Depreciation expense will be reported in the statement of activities.

Individual assets with an initial cost of \$100 or more but less than the capitalized threshold will be maintained on an inventory list for insurance purposes. The \$100 to capitalized threshold is an internal management control and will not be reflected in the financial statements.

Any donated capital assets will be reported at their estimated fair value at the time of acquisition plus ancillary charges, if any.

Depreciation Method for Capital Assets

Depreciation expense will be measured by the straight line depreciation method which is historical cost divided over the estimated useful life of the asset.

$$\text{Formula} = \text{Historical cost} / \text{Estimated Useful Live}$$

Depreciation will be calculated monthly; the first month's depreciation will be taken in the first full month of acquisition for the capital assets of machinery, equipment, vehicles, buildings and improvements other than buildings.

Land, intangible assets and construction in progress are not depreciated. For intangible assets, if the useful life can be determined from contractual or other legal rights, then the intangible asset should be amortized over that useful life, and the service life shouldn't exceed that contractual or legal rights limit.

Estimated Useful Lives of Capital Assets

The standards or parameters for estimating the useful lives of capital assets are based on professional judgments and industry averages, therefore determined to be objectively reasonable. Johnson County will have a subsequent review of estimated useful lives of capital assets once established to reflect changes in the condition of the asset or its use.

A range approach is used as a matter of policy, with specific estimated useful lives attached to specific assets when recorded in order to facilitate depreciation and tracking.