Franklin County
A Natural Setting for Opportunity

PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY ANNOUNCES RECEIPT OF NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AWARD

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For Additional Information,
Contact Sandie Terry, CGCIO, Franklin County Director of Information Technology 540-483-3037

Franklin County Officials today announced that they have been awarded a 3rd place National finish in the Annual Digital Counties Survey for communities with a population less than 150,000. Franklin County at a population of roughly 53,000 competes with counties three times its size – and competing with fewer resources. As stated in this year's survey: *"Being a digital county is about bringing value quickly and consistently; it is also about adaptive Chief Information Officer leadership, collaboration across the technology community and creating trust among public officials – the county that does these things well is the "Digital County" indeed."*

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute providing government, education and industry leaders with support to effectively adopt new technologies. The Center works with the National Association of Counties, Government Technology Magazine and Digital Communities to conduct the annual *Digital Counties Survey*. This survey is open to all local county governments nationwide and assesses the use of technology both in terms of operating efficiencies and realizing strategic objectives. The survey changes every year to accommodate new technologies and the challenges presented due to changes in the economy, with this past year certainly being one of the most challenging economies for local governments.

The 2010 survey evaluated the use of technology across several functional areas of local government with the participants choosing three or four of those areas to focus responses. Franklin County responded in regards to: Public Safety and Emergency Management, Workforce Development, Finance and Administration, and Citizen Engagement and Online/Mobile Services. Technology use in these areas is assessed in terms of operational and/or administrative efficiencies and strategic intentions over the past year and plans for this next year.

Franklin County began participating in the annual survey in 2005 and finally achieved a place in the top 10 in 2009, tying Columbia County, Georgia for 9th place. This year Franklin County is being honored with a 3rd place ranking, nationally.

The top 10 winners in the l**ess than 150,000 population** were:

1st: Charles County, Md.
2nd: Nevada County, Calif.
3rd: Franklin County, Va.
4th: Skagit County, Wash.
5th: Albemarle County, Va.
6th: Martin County, Fla.
7th: Columbia County, Ga.
8th: Olmsted County, Minn.
9th: Napa County, Calif.
10th: Bay County, Mich.

"Franklin County's Director of Information Technology, Sandie Terry has done a tremendous job for the County in moving our local government forward in the use of technology to serve our citizens," said Board Chairman, Charles Wagner. "To place 3rd nationally in a population bracket that includes much larger counties with greater resources to draw upon speaks volumes about the efforts of Franklin County's employees to serve our citizens" added Wagner.

This year's honor is not a first for Franklin County as its innovative approach to the use of technology in improving government services and efficiency was also recognized in 2008 as the County received the prestigious, Governor's Technology Award for Excellence.

For additional background regarding the Digital Counties Survey rankings, see http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/766229 and for more information regarding Franklin County, please visit http://www.franklincountyva.org