



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Contact: Victoria B. Moreland  
Director/Public Relations  
(239) 590-4504  
[vbmoreland@flylcpa.com](mailto:vbmoreland@flylcpa.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PORT AUTHORITY PROPOSES \$266.6 MILLION ANNUAL BUDGET FOR LEE COUNTY AIRPORTS**

FORT MYERS, Fla. (June 24, 2008) – The Lee County Port Authority has proposed an overall annual budget of \$266.6 million for the 2008-09 fiscal year for Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field General Aviation Airport. This represents approximately a 1 percent reduction from the current year, and is due to decreases in operating expenses as well as reduced capital spending.

Capital projects for the new budget year include the continuation of conceptual design for the parallel runway at Southwest Florida International Airport and apron expansion at Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field.

“Despite a projected decrease in passenger traffic, our airlines know we have made a concerted effort to control expenses, and they are pleased with the conservative, realistic stance we have taken on our revenue and expense assumptions,” said Robert M. Ball, A.A.E, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority.

Final budget approval will not be granted until public hearings are held in the fall. The Port Authority functions as an enterprise fund, run entirely with revenue generated from airport operations. No ad valorem (property) tax dollars support the operation, improvement or expansion of either airport.

For more information, visit the airport's Web site at [www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com).