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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2017

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Own a Piece of Oklahoma County

“If you want to own a piece of Oklahoma County, you have your chance. Old, outdated aerial pictures from 1989 of Oklahoma County are being offered free to the public. We need to find the pictures a new home or they could end up in the dumpster. These are hard copy images of Oklahoma County and are offered free of charge but are limited to 10 pictures to each person,” said Larry Stein, chief deputy for Oklahoma County Assessor Leonard Sullivan.

The pictures will be available starting Monday, December 4th in the Assessor’s Office on the 3rd Floor of the County Annex Building Room 315 at the west end of the hallway.

“Computers and digital images have taken the place of these pictures which measure around 15 inches square. Since the mapping part of the website has just been revamped and updated to make it easier to identify property in the county and to get around on the interactive map we have been clearing out the old pictures,” Stein said.

We offered up the pictures for the 19 cities and towns in Oklahoma County first and since we haven’t had any other takers it was decided to let the public have the images. These old pictures were replaced with digital images and for the first-time visitors to the website can see the entire 720 square miles of Oklahoma County featuring with six inch pixels. The new images are much clearer and precise than anything offered before, and in some parts of the county there are 3 inch pixels available. Each pixel represents a 9 square inch image of the county,” Stein said. The assessor’s office provides free Web-Ucation classes to help groups interested in the webpage get more familiar with the new features.

“The digital images are a much better quality than the pictures we have available for the public. These images were the last hard copies purchased. The first batch of digital images cost around \$200,000, nearly \$300 per square mile of the county. This last year, Oklahoma County and other entities created a coalition to purchase the images and the cost was reduced to under \$20 a square mile. This shows how technology has helped reduce the cost to taxpayers,” Stein said.

“There will be a large county map available so you can reference the location in the county and while ALL of the county isn’t available, maybe you can find something that jogs a memory or can be used in some project, craft or decorating idea. We would like to know how you use the photos, so please send the completed project for us to share on our FaceBook page @okcountyassessor,” Stein said.

Last year the Oklahoma County Assessor’s Office was one of four Oklahoma Counties to earn a perfect score in the yearly Performance Audit by the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) last year. Every year the assessor’s office is required to set the fair market value of all of the property in Oklahoma County, more than 330,000 parcels of property worth more than \$60 Billion. The majority of the property taxes collected from property owners support local public schools, technology centers, cities and towns, libraries and health departments. Oklahoma County receives approximately 10 cents of every property tax dollar to support law enforcement, the county jail, and the operation of the offices of three county commissioners, the assessor, county court clerk, county clerk and the office of the treasurer.