

County passes higher budget

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Much of \$4.5 million hike due to road projects.

LEXINGTON—Dawson County's operating budget is up just over 20% from last year.

Commissioners recognize that it's a considerable jump but are quick to point out that roughly \$4.3 million of the \$4.5 million increase comes from a pair of road projects to be completed this year.

One is a \$1.5 million overlay of 13th Street outside of Lexington. The other is a 15-mile stretch of resurfacing between Overton and Sumner which commissioners financed through highway bonds totaling \$2.7 million.

The county board adopted the 2010-11 budget following a public hearing during the regular bimonthly meeting on Sept. 15.

"Dawson County has many miles of blacktop that should have been taken care of long before this," said commissioner Roger Bauer of Overton. "Now we need to try and save them."

The county is resurfacing 25 miles of road this year of the 150 miles or more of paved roads in the county.

"Some of our gravel is in bad shape too after the weather we've had," said Bill Sewart of Lexington. "We're still working on those and we're not caught up yet."

In adopting the budget, commissioners also set the tax asking at \$7.4 million and the levy at 40.7 cents per \$100,000 in valuation.

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“If your value went up then your taxes will go up for the county portion of your tax bill,” Stewart said. “If your value didn’t go up, your taxes should stay relatively the same.”

In other business, county commissioners agreed to be a supporting applicant for a Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act (BECA) grant that Dawson Area Development is applying for with the City of Lexington as primary applicant.

DAD executive director Jen Wolf told the board the BECA grant, if awarded, would help pay for

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