

## County commissioners ask officials to make cuts

Written by Deb Egenberger  
Thursday, 13 September 2012 13:45 -

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DAWSON COUNTY BUDGET			
	2012-12	2011-12	Difference
Valuation.....	\$2,063,319,344	\$1,946,738,696	5.99%
Expenses.....	\$26,474,567	\$26,398,872	0.29%
Revenue.....	\$19,545,965	\$20,026,817	-2.40%
Tax asking.....	\$8,460,593	\$7,870,056	7.50%
Levy.....	.41005	.40427	1.43%

### Departments make changes to hold the line

LEXINGTON—Counties have a five-cent limit on how much they can raise the property tax levy from one year to the next.

Most of the initial requests that came from Dawson County departments for the 2012-13 budget would have fit under that five-cent lid.

“But the commissioners refused to raise the levy a nickel,” said county clerk Karla Zlatkovsky.

So departments were asked to find areas to cut.

Some found sizeable chunks to take out. Others did what they could with smaller bites.

In the end, Zlatkovsky said the county board will consider a minimal increase in expenses and a slight raise in levy when they vote on the budget during their regular bimonthly board meeting that begins at 8:30 a.m. on Friday.

Overall, the county holds the line on spending with an increase of only \$87,685 in budget expenditures, or .33%.

That’s after the roads department took out big bucks intended for road repairs and the sheriff’s department agreed to wait for a new roof on the 20-year-old jail.

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## REVENUES

**Property taxes**  
The county will set property tax rates at 2012 or higher in order to pay 2012 property values. The rate for 2012 is 2011-12 budget year is 0.0000.

**County offices**  
County offices in the county collect fees for various services. The county has various income tax and registration programs for vehicles and personal property. The fee of the department is for permit and registration.

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County law enforcement is expected to bring in \$13 million, an amount that is one of the largest departments budget in the county.

**Bonds**  
The county has issued bonds for various projects and to cover the county's debt. The county's debt is expected to be around \$100 million. Last year, the county was estimated at \$200,000 and this year it drops more than \$100,000.

## EXPENSES

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