

County commissioners ask officials to make cuts

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

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.....	\$19,345,965	\$20,025,917	-2.40%
Tax asking.....	\$8,460,589	\$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 2.00% or higher in order to pay 2012 property values. The rate for 2012 is 2.00%.

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.

Law Enforcement
The sheriff's department directs a wide array of law enforcement activities. The department of law enforcement receives the reimbursement for housing contract services from other state and federal jurisdictions.

County law enforcement is expected to bring in \$13 million in revenue for the 2012-13 budget year. The sheriff's department is the largest department in the county.

Bonds
The county issues bonds to finance various projects and to cover the county's debt. The county will issue \$10 million in bonds for the 2012-13 budget year.

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits
The department of law enforcement is the largest department in the county. The department of law enforcement is expected to spend \$13 million on salaries and benefits for 2012-13.

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Fire
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