

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Grant City Council approved their new fiscal year budget for 2011-12 on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in the amount of approximately \$3.8 million.

Council gave the go-ahead on the figure, which is an increase over last year's budget of nearly \$670,000.

The tax asking in the upcoming budget is \$203,426 at a proposed rate of 0.455199.

The budgeted amount for the city's water projects is the biggest portion of the change, said City Superintendent Tyson McGreer.

"We tried to put as much money into the streets as we could," said McGreer. "The council recognizes the need for some major repairs."

McGreer said the city will take on at least one big project, in addition to some smaller projects on the streets next year.

The budgeted amount for water projects alone is approximately \$400,000.

A decrease in state aid also affected the newly adopted budget for 2011-12, said McGreer.

The installation of a new AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) next year is also included in the new budget.

The city still has entitlement funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that can be put toward projects at the airport. Some of the funding already received from FAA was used this summer in replacing collapsing taxi lanes at the north T-hangars.

New 2011-12 Budget

The new proposed budget of disbursements and transfers comes to a total of \$3,799,623.

The upcoming budget is an increase over the previous year's amount of \$3,129,981.

Tax asking at a 3-cent increase is up by \$13,426 over the 2010-11 budget of \$190,000.

Property valuation within the City of Grant is \$44,689,439 which is \$292,149 over last year's valuation.

The tax levy's proposed rate is 45.5 cents per \$100 valuation compared to 42.8 cents per \$100 valuation in the 2010-11 budget.

Some portions of the budget increased, while others decreased.

The electric utility's portion of the new budget is \$1,430,840 which is up from last year's figure of \$1,321,050.

Maintenance and repair of streets is budgeted for \$230,590. Last year's figure was \$186,450.

In looking ahead at necessary water projects, the amount budgeted is \$601,067 compared to last year's figure of \$180,370.

Waste is budgeted at \$156,591, up from \$152,025 last year, and sewer is also up with a budgeted figure of \$60,257 compared to \$83,165 in the previous budget.

The police contract in the new budget is \$104,247. Last year's budgeted amount was \$101,898.

Other city entities and the budgeted amounts include:

Grant Cemetery \$38,725, which is slightly up; Hastings Memorial Library, \$81,778, which is slightly down; and the Grant Municipal Airport with a budget of \$448,320 which is up from last year's figure of \$393,572.

The Grant City Parks and Recreation Program budget for 2011-12 reflects a decrease. This year's budgeted amount is \$129,925 compared to last year's figure of \$133,805.

The parks and rec figure covers such things as wages, supplies, repairs, and sports equipment.