

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Slightly down from last year, the Grant City Council has approved a 2010-11 budget that still incorporates enough funds for new taxi lanes at the airport.

At their budget hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 14, council members gave the go-ahead on a \$3.1 million fiscal year budget with a proposed property tax request of \$190,000.

The airport project, which includes replacing collapsing taxi lanes at the north T-hangars, is in the neighborhood of over \$250,000.

The budgeted amount is \$332,000 but according to City Superintendent Tyson McGreer, the project won't cost that much. "We budgeted high," he said.

The budgeted funds also include a new AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) in the spring if the project can be accomplished during this budget year.

Hopefully, the projects will both get completed because the city has FAA entitlement funds to use. If the federal money is not spent it must be given back. Each year, the city receives FAA funds that can be put toward airport projects.

New 2010-11 Budget

The new fiscal year budget comes to a total of \$3,129,981.64.

The upcoming budget is a decrease over the previous year's amount of \$3,397,992.51.

Tax asking is up by \$10,000 over the 2009-10 budget of \$180,000.

Property valuation within the City of Grant is \$44,397,290 which is \$1.6 million more than last year's valuation of \$42,781,649.

The tax levy's proposed rate is 42.8 cents per \$100 valuation compared to 42.07 cents per \$100 valuation in the previous budget.

Some portions of the budget increased, others decreased.

The electric utility's portion of the new budget is \$1,321,050. Last year's figure was \$1,304,150.

Street maintenance and repair has a budgeted amount of \$186,450 which is only a slight increase over last year's amount of \$186,345.

The water, waste and sewer amounts in this year's budget are \$180,370 (down), \$170,050 (same) and \$83,165 (same), respectively.

The police contract in the new budget is slightly up at an amount of \$101,898. Last year's amount was \$91,425 which had remained the same for two years.

Other city entities and their budgeted amounts include the Grant Cemetery, \$36,221 which is slightly up; Hastings Memorial Library, \$90,365 which is slightly up; and the Grant Municipal

Airport, \$393,572 which is up from last year's amount of \$349,877.

The Grant City Parks and Recreation Program's budget is \$133,805, an increase over last year's figure of \$130,000. This figure covers such expenses as wages, supplies, repairs, sports equipment and utilities, to name a few.