



Friday, August 2, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hardin County Judge Files FY2020 County Budget

On Tuesday, Hardin County Commissioners Court accepted the 'Hardin County Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019', submitted by Judge Wayne McDaniel.

The FY20 Proposed Budget, filed with the County Clerk on July 31st, forecasts \$23,403,794 in revenue and \$23,501,334 in expenditures (a deficit of \$97,540). A last-minute decision by the Judge to lower the 2019 tax rate by ½-Cent from 0.5850/\$100 to 0.5800/\$100 is the cause for the deficit.

McDaniel stated, "Between now and September when we adopt the FY20 County Budget, I will work hard to make necessary adjustments to the Proposed Budget in order to reduce the deficit to \$0.00. I have asked all Elected Officials and Department Heads to work with me in this endeavor by making any possible cuts to their budget, and one has already committed to a reduction of \$20,000 in order to help offset this amount."

Lisa Finn, on behalf of Shirley Cook - Tax Assessor Collector, presented the Court with the following Tax Rate information for 2019: Effective Tax Rate: 0.543635/\$100; Rollback Tax Rate: 0.587917/\$100. The current Tax Rate for 2018 is: 0.58500/\$100. The Court unanimously voted to set the Proposed 2019 Tax Rate at 0.5800/\$100. "This half-cent reduction in the Tax Rate means a homeowner can expect a decrease in their County Taxes by approximately \$5.00 per \$100,000 valuation. This is a \$166,834 loss in revenue for the County." said Judge McDaniel.

Some of the increases made to the FY20 Proposed Budget from the current year are: A 3% cost of living wage increase for all personnel, plus merit-based wage increases for a few employees; Addition of 2 Corrections Officers and 1 Dispatcher in the Sheriff's Office; Addition of a new Paralegal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office; Purchase of new Election Equipment; Increased Property/Liability/Health Insurance premiums; and increased repairs/maintenance costs to the Courthouse and Jail.

The [FY20 Proposed Budget](#) is available on the County Website under Financial Transparency> Proposed Budgets. On August 13th, the Court will set Public Hearings on the Tax Rate and Budget. "I encourage any citizen who has a comment on the Tax Rate and/or the County Budget to attend our Public Hearings on these matters." – Judge Wayne McDaniel.

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