

Atchison Co Budget Process Nearing End

(KAIR)--Atchison County officials are busy putting the final touches on a budget for 2016.

Commissioner Jeff Schuele says that right now, a minor mistake made nearly two years ago that effects the current budget is being corrected. "There was some liability counts that were entered incorrectly at the end of 2014, so this was for the 2014 fiscal audit." The county's Human Resources Director has been "working to clean up those liability counts so that the auditor can get us some trial balances so we can run those...the ending 2014 balance effects your beginning 2015 budget, and obviously the ending 2015 budget, and effects again 2016."

Schuele adds that there has not been a huge amount of big budget requests from departments, though Commissioners are still sorting through some final requests made by the road and bridge department.

Schuele says the Commission has a clear idea on what the budget should look like. "Our goal is to try and keep the mill levy stagnant or lower this year with the valuation being up, and cognoscente of keeping property taxes in check. At the same time, we are dealing with aging infrastructure that needs to be upgraded, and I think we all see that sometimes when you push things aside to take care of debt, a few years down the road, it costs about 25 to 30 percent more than you anticipated. We are working to try and balance that as best as we can, because property taxes are a county's primary source of revenue."

Schuele says the budget should be on track to be adopted during the August 25th County Commission meeting.

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