

Richardson County Commissioners Approve Budget

(KTNC) - Richardson County Commissioners approved a budget for the next fiscal year that is lower than the previous year's budget during Tuesday's meeting.

The budget of expenditures for the 2012-13 fiscal year is estimated at just over \$11.4 million, a three-and-a-half percent decrease from the 2011 budget of \$11.9 million.

The tax levy is also down significantly from last year, to 38.97-cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. That's a decrease of more than four cents, or 9.65-percent from last year, and is the lowest tax levy in Richardson County since 2003.

The estimated tax requirement is down 1.2-percent to just under \$3.9-million.

Property valuations in Richardson County increased 9.3-percent in the past year, with total valuation of more than 999-million dollars.

No one from the public attended a public hearing that preceded approval of the budget.

In other business, Commissioners formally appointed Austin Duerfeldt (deer-felt) as Richardson County Treasurer. He fills the unexpired term that expires on January 7, 2015. Duerfeldt was sworn into office and began his duties as County Treasurer on Tuesday.

Commissioners opened sealed bids for a patrol truck for the Sheriff's Department. Three bids were received. All the bids were accepted for further review by the board and Sheriff Randy Houser.

Commissioners authorized Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert to advertise for sealed bids for the asphalt overlay of six miles of county road – including two miles of the Dustless Highway and four miles of the Bern Road. Bids will be opened at 11:30 a.m. on October 9th.

And Commissioners reappointed James Beckner to the Richardson County Veteran's Service Committee for a five-year term expiring June 30, 2017.