

Holt County MO Commissioners Hear Annual Budget Report (KLZA)-- Holt County, Missouri Commissioners conducted the 2015 Budget meeting Monday with the Budget Message presented by County Clerk Kathy Kunkel.

Kunkel noted the main funds in the county all posted increased cash balances at the close of 2014.

The General Fund had a gain of \$5,700, ending the year with \$393,096. Two departments posted expenditures outpacing appropriations, those being the Sheriff's Department Budget and the Holt County Coroner's Budget.

The Sheriff's Budget ended the year \$16,127 over budget. However, County Commissioners approved the additional expenditures due to the need to replace a patrol car when one was unexpectedly totaled. By year end Sheriff Scott Wedlock had ample funds remaining in the Jail Budget and was able to pay off early another fleet vehicle. The Jail Budget ended the year more than \$81,000 under budget.

The Coroner was \$9,102 over budget for Autopsies and Inquests, due to an increased number of deaths under unusual circumstances. The Commissioners have increased that line item by \$3,000 for 2015, to \$10,000.

All other departmental funds were within appropriated amounts.

The Road and Bridge Fund ended the year with a large cash gain of just over \$60,000. Two road graders were paid off in 2014 and the Oregon Road and Bridge Barn was purchased.

In 2015 Commissioners have agreed to purchase two new rock truck tractors and one new road grader.

A 25-cent an hour raise for all county employees was approved for 2015 to keep pace with a Missouri minimum wage increase of 15-cents. Elected County officials will not receive a pay increase. Sheriff's Deputies will receive the quarter an hour raise to their county base pay.

In her budget message Clerk Kunkel noted Holt County is continuing toward development of a port authority for Holt County for barge traffic along the Missouri River and connectivity to Interstate 29 and the rail line.

Many Signals Communications