

## 2014 Hiawatha Budget Contains 2 Mill Decrease

( KNZA )--The proposed 2014 budget for the city of Hiawatha contains an about two mill property tax levy decrease.

The city commission approved the nearly \$7 million budget for publication Monday evening. The budget contains an estimated tax rate of 45.788 mills, which is to generate just under a million dollars.

It's the second year in row the mill levy has decreased, but Commissioner Steffen Shamburg cautioned that can't continue forever with the issues the city is facing.

The commission was able to lower the mill levy due to a 1.3 million increase in the city's assessed valuation.

The commission will consider adoption of the budget following a public hearing at their August 19th meeting.

In a related matter, the commission vote to accept the recommendation of the Dispatch Advisory Committee to pay \$49,500 to Brown County for 2014 for providing dispatch services.

Commissioner Shamburg, a member of the dispatch advisory committee, said he thinks its a "reasonably fair number". He noted Hiawatha residents are already paying for dispatch services to some degree.

The county had requested that the city increase what it pays. The amount is less than the \$55,000 the city is paying this year, but more than the \$38,000 the 1990 inter-local agreement between the two entities calls for.

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