

Chase County tax request up nearly 8 percent

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Increase over the last two budgets totals nearly 14 percent

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Chase County taxpayers will again see an increase in the taxes they pay for county operations next year.

The tax request submitted by the county commissioners asks for \$171,790 more in taxes from county residents next year compared to this year.

Tax money sought by the commissioners for the 2011-12 budget totals \$2,323,230. This compares to the \$2,151,440 requested for the 2010-11 budget.

This represents an increase of 7.98 percent over last year's request.

Over the last two budget years, tax requests for county operations have increased by \$284,850—\$113,060 from 09-10 to 10-11 and \$171,790 from 10-11 to 11-12. That equates to an increase of 13.97 percent over that two-year span.

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County valuation up 11.2 percent

This year's final tax levies will be calculated on a higher county property valuation. Chase County Assessor Dotty Bartels said the total valuation for Chase County for 2011 will stand at \$701,328,289.

This compares to the 2010 valuation of \$630,436,868.

She said the increase in the value of dryland farm ground represented the primary reason for the higher property valuation for 2011.

She noted her office reviewed the value of rural outbuildings, which accounted for some of the increase. Irrigated farm land increased some as well while grassland remained unchanged.

This swell of \$70.891 million in valuation represents a 11.2 percent increase this year over last.

This increased valuation will set the county's portion of the overall tax levy at \$0.33127 per \$100 of valuation.

That levy keeps the county under the state-imposed levy lid of \$0.45 per \$100 of valuation. The state also allows an additional \$0.05 when political subdivisions enter into interlocal agreements together.