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LEVY

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pick up the last year of the current five-year levy and cover the \$4.2 million revenue shortfall.

Rust said passage of the levy would mean a \$50 increase in the annual property tax rate for a \$72,000 home.

Much of the levy would go to the Sheriff's Department, which receives about half of the county's discretionary funds.

Lane County Sheriff Bob McManus said the new levy would provide his department with a "wooden bridge" over the budget gap. Without it, the department faces a \$1.6 million budget cut.

McManus said the cuts would probably force the department to close about 40 percent of the Lane County Jail and eliminate programs like the forest work camp and the community corrections center.

McManus said the reduction in jail capacity and elimination of alternative programs would hamper the likelihood of incarcerating all but the most dangerous criminals.

"By the time you get down to dealing with the ills of a community the size of Connecticut, keeping them in jail is not going to happen," McManus said.

However, Rust said if Ballot Measure 20-02 fails, the county will be able to make up for some

of the revenue loss from the \$3.1 million reserve fund. The current five-year levy would also provide a cushion.

"We have one year left on the current levy," Rust said. "We'd have time to come back in September with another proposal. We have some room to wiggle. We're not at a drop-dead scenario."

In addition to maintaining existing services, Ballot Measure 20-02 would provide \$200,000 per year to establish a new child abuse prevention and intervention program.

Rust said the child abuse provisions of the levy are a response to a number of particularly disturbing cases of abuse in Lane County. Among those instances was the March 1991 murder of a six-year-old Cottage Grove boy by his mother.

Steve Carmichael, director of the Lane County Department of Youth Services, said reports of child abuse and abuse-related deaths have dramatically increased.

"This year it has really reached epidemic levels," Carmichael said.

Mike Lutz, intake supervisor for CSD, said reports of child abuse in Lane County have jumped 15 to 20 percent over the past four months.

Carmichael, whose department is facing a \$310,000 budget cut as a result of the revenue shortfall, said intervention is the key to stopping the cycle of child abuse and juvenile crimes.

CUTS

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backs — on June 8.

This was in keeping with directives from Gov. Barbara Roberts' office, which required a 20-percent budget cut at all public colleges and universities for the 1993-95 biennium, reflecting a decrease in state funding. It is part of an overall state budget cutback effort. The cutbacks became necessary when Measure 5, which reduced property taxes, was passed in November 1990 and resulted as a dramatic decrease in state income.

University Vice Provost Norman Wessells said the cuts may not have to happen because the

governor does not have to submit a 1993-95 state budget to the Legislature until late this year. By then, the wheels could be in motion for a new tax plan and replacement revenue.

"There would be time to make some changes, although there's been no indication one way or another whether that's in the future," Wessells said. "But we're hopeful and that's why we want a special session. We hope that something happens to stem the tide."

Brand expressed similar sentiments.

Final adoption of the University's budget proposal will come from the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, followed by the governor, who

would include it in her budget proposal to the 1993 Legislature.

"It's important for everyone to understand that these proposals must be approved by the board, the governor and the Legislature," Brand said. "Obviously, we hope that tax reform will occur soon, because we don't believe that what will result from these budgets would be good for Oregon. However, at this stage, we have no alternative."

Roberts announced June 4 that she will call a special session of the Legislature and if a tax plan is approved by a majority of lawmakers in the House and Senate, it will likely go before voters in a special election in mid-September.

Roberts will announce later this week when the special session will take place (mid-July is expected) and the specifics of

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