

Much Slashing of Estimates From Various Departments of City Administration is Necessary.

Mayor Simon has succeeded in hammering down the city tax levy to 1 1/2 mills. In order to do this practically all estimates filed by the several municipal departments for their expenses during 1911. The fire and police department estimates suffered most severely from the slashing. The engineering and street cleaning departments received the heaviest cutting of estimates falling under the general fund.

In order to maintain the departments on the estimates allowed Mayor Simon recommends that working force and expenses be reduced. This order mostly applies to the street cleaning and engineering departments. Application has been made by heads of several departments for increase in salary for members of their departments. No increases are allowed by the mayor.

Turning into the estimate filed by the chief of the fire department was unusually heavy, as there have been many calls for new stations and equipment. The estimate for the requirements for next year for the department is \$452,234. The mayor cut this to \$327,780. This is out to \$124,454. The estimate for street repairing is \$165,547, and this is cut to \$92,260. The street lighting estimate is allowed in full, which is \$125,421.

Street Traffic Heavy. In cutting the street repair estimate much work of repairing streets will have to be postponed. With the increase of automobile and heavy traffic the streets need constant attention along this line. With the growth of the city and especially with the suburban territory, added police protection is demanded. Only half the estimate for men asked by that department were allowed. The same applies to fire protection.

The mayor has opposed increases of salary throughout the entire year, and has carried this idea into his budget. He has cut the salaries of the men asked in their estimates for increases for men in their departments. This request was made for those who have been long in the employ of the city. The following departments made such requests, which amount to cover the increase for the entire year: City attorney, \$680; auditor, \$1,300; police department, \$1,000; city engineer, \$330; park department, \$1,500; and street cleaning department, \$1,200. Should all these increases have been granted, the amount would have been \$5,250.

Some Allowances Granted. The estimates of departments sustained by the general fund covered additional men, more fixtures, and other features demanded by the increase in business. The street cleaning department asked for \$12,500, and was allowed \$23,000. The engineering department asked for \$210,150 and is allowed \$140,000.

With such cutting heads of the several departments began this morning figuring out what they would do next year. Many feel they have been unjustly treated, and others feel the city will be materially injured. The tax levy has been kept to 1 1/2 mills, and the general fund reduced to the estimated amount.

Should the council approve of the mayor's figures, it is stated by those closely watching municipal affairs that the city will be more hard pressed for funds at the close of next year than at the present time. The tax levy last year was 4 1/2 mills, which was much lower than it has been for several years. It is further set forth by many that this was entirely too low for the growth of the city, which low tax levy has resulted in the present straitened condition of the city finances.

Get Figures From Estimates. Portland, Or., Nov. 12, 1910.—To the council in accordance with the requirement of section 285 of the charter, the several officers, commissioners, boards and departments have prepared and presented to the council a statement of the estimates of the expenses and disbursements of their respective departments for the year 1911. From these estimates the mayor is required to prepare his annual budget for the current expenses of the ensuing year and present the same to the council, so that it may estimate and declare the necessary amount of money to be raised by general taxation for municipal purposes, and ordain the general appropriation ordinances.

Table with 2 columns: Department Name and Amount. Includes items like Stationary and blanks, Insurance on city property, Expense of litigation, Expense of license tags, etc.

Stationary and blanks 12,000.00 Insurance on city property 1,750.00 Expense of litigation 3,000.00 Expense of license tags 1,500.00 Expense of city engineer's office 1,500.00 Miscellaneous expenses of council 1,000.00 Miscellaneous expenses of city engineer's office 2,000.00 Furniture fund 3,000.00 Examination of plumbers 300.00 Office supplies 1,000.00 Expense of elections 20,000.00 Free employment bureau 2,100.00 Free museum 2,500.00 Car fare 1,000.00

Table with 2 columns: Department Name and Amount. Includes items like Police force, Police equipment, Police uniforms, Police salaries, etc.

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