

Record Breaking County Budget Planned During 1952-53; More O-C Money Allocated for Roads, Courthouse Addition

By ERIC ALLEN JR.
Mail Tribune City Editor

Jackson county will spend a lot of money in the coming year, if present budget plans go through.

The budget — which totals an all-time record high of \$2,270,572 — has a number of interesting features this year.

One is a proposed \$200,000 "sinking fund" to pay for a proposed new courthouse addition, which has long been the dream of county officials.

Another new feature is a \$200,000 "sinking fund" for county roads and bridges.

Money From O and C — \$400,000 — is not in the cash register yet. They are paper figures, and represent expected increases in federal payments from federal Oregon and California reversioned lands.

when it becomes available. Just how much actually will be received is anybody's guess, and is dependent on a variety of circumstances, including timber prices and timber sales.

There's an outside chance that the county may run into a snag in the courthouse sinking fund. A similar plan was under consideration this year in Lane county, which needs a new courthouse, but it was declared legally questionable by the district attorney there.

OK'd by Attorney General However, on May 1, 1952, the state's attorney general ruled that a 1945 law authorizes financing of public projects, and their maintenance, by the use of sinking funds. It was on this advice that the county acted in setting it up.

Whether any objections will be made to the proposed budget remains to be seen. If there are, they will be heard at the public budget hearing which has been set for 10 a. m., Wednesday, June 25.

Of the \$2,270,572 which the county budget committee feels should be the budget total, only \$598,621.82 will be levied as taxes. The balance will be made up from various revenues, income and cash on hand which the committee estimates will be available, including the "hoped for" extra money which the O and C lands, in addition to regularly-budgeted O and C funds.

Budget totals for the past two previous years have been, in 1951-52, a \$1,767,456 total, with a tax levy of \$572,856, and in 1950-51, a total of \$1,587,650, of which \$637,501 was raised by taxes.

Highlights Given Here are a few other highlights of the big new budget:

—The biggest chunk of money will go for roads and bridges, a total of \$1,016,680. This total is broken into various parts, including the general road fund of \$573,120 (money for which comes from state gas tax, public utilities commission fees, O and C lands and other sources); the market road fund of \$243,560 (of which some \$65,020 will be provided from a three-mill continuing tax levy); and the new \$200,000 "sinking fund" set up in the hope of increased O and C revenue.

—The second biggest item is help for the poor, which is classified under 15 different categories in the budget, and which adds up to the grand total of \$260,765.

For Help to Poor (Among these are the county farm (\$54,147); the programs administered by the County Public Welfare commission such as old age assistance (\$125,750), aid to dependent children (\$27,840),

and other including medical care all of which total \$203,718, and miscellaneous relief (\$1,000), and aid to indigent veterans (\$1,900).

—The county assessor, with a total budget of \$98,918, has the largest departmental budget. That office had \$60,288 last year. Biggest item of increase is \$49,000 to match state and federal contributions in the classification of lands, compared to \$10,000 for that purpose last year.

—One item in the budget revealed officially for the first time that county officials plan to construct a new elevator in the courthouse. A total of \$14,000 has been set aside for the purpose. County Commissioner L. G. Morthland said that space for an elevator was left when the main building was put up in 1932, and that only "false floors" need be removed to clear the shaft.

—Miscellaneous general county expenses account for a good share of the budget—\$98,911.66. These include such outlays as \$13,880 to pay for elections; \$17,000 for retirement (down from \$33,000 last year due to the fact that many county employees voted to come under federal social security rather than state retirement); \$14,000 for social security payments; \$15,000 to pay tax discounts to prompt and thrifty taxpayers who get discounts for early payment; and other smaller expenses such as fire control, insurance, advertising, land sales, herd inspection, weed control, range seeding, experiment station and others, including a \$100 contribution to the Keep Oregon Green association.

—Another big-budget department is the health office, which is slated for \$74,660, the same as last year. Most of the amount goes for salaries for the public health officer (\$9,600 in the budget), plus eight public health nurses, and for clerk stenographers and typists, sanitarians, a bacteriologist and others. An item of \$10,500 is for travel, much of which is for mileage for the nurses.

—Many other departments have budgets the same as last year, while several are up either considerably (as with the assessor's office), or moderately (as with the county library, which gets a flat 2/10 of a mill levy and which increases only proportionately with the assessed valuation of the county).

Some Budgets Down —Some departmental budgets are down, however. Notable among these is the juvenile department, which was cut from \$14,925.20 in 1951-52 to \$14,475 in the coming year. The cut here came in payments to institutions, from \$2,964 to \$2,400. Protests to this cut may be heard at the public hearing on the budget June 25, for this outlay is one of the vital costs of juvenile care and the budgeted amount is said to be only adequate to care for present commitments, without providing for new cases. Mileage also was cut. The juvenile officer has resigned since the budget was published, and, while he has not said so, many people think he was motivated partly by budget cuts. The deputy juvenile officer is thought to be considering resigning for the same reasons.

Several of the departments have revenues from various sources which cut down on the amount that property taxpayers must plunge up for their support.

Examples of these include the district court, which is expected to bring in more money than it costs to operate the court; the clerk's officers, where fees and licenses will bring in an estimated \$40,000 of the total clerk's budget of \$49,396; the county farm, where the overall \$54,147 budget will be decreased by an estimated \$45,000 in income; the health department, where income next year is estimated at \$32,685, and others on a smaller scale.

The general fund of the county — the amount needed to keep the general, every-day, run-of-the-mill county government going — will total \$336,633.92, the budgeters estimate.

In addition to the general fund, there are the general and market road funds, mentioned previously; \$11,550 for the county library fund (including money to both Medford and Ashland public libraries); \$12,000 in an emergency fund; \$7,735 for civilian defense, and the two sinking funds.

Other Items Three other items are still to be added to make the grand total. These are the county school fund, figured at \$10 for each of the county's 16,631 school-age children (\$166,310), the county library fund, at 10 cents for each child (\$1,663.10), and the continuing levy for support of the Jacksonville museum, \$18,000 this year.

(In 1948, county voters approved a continuing levy "not to exceed" one-half a mill for the support of the museum. This year the levy will be .3 of a mill, and the \$18,000 figure is an estimate of the amount it will bring in.)

Adding these all together makes the budget grand total of \$2,270,572.02, or about \$31 for every man, woman, and child in the county.

But from this total is deducted \$633,810 of expected revenues from general fund income items (as mentioned above, and others, plus an estimated \$15,000 in cash on hand (or "carry-over"), plus \$162,078 in O and C cash on hand, plus \$262,344.21 in other O and C funds, plus \$500 "miscellaneous").

Also to be deducted is general road fund and market road fund income and the previously mentioned items of \$200,000 and \$200,000 from the O and C, in addition to other O and C income.

Unemployed Payments Up \$3,000,000 Over 1951-52

Salem — (U.P.) — Payment to Oregon's unemployed workers in the first 11 months of the 1951-52 benefit year amounted to \$13,376,018, the State Unemployment Compensation commission said Saturday.

That represented an increase of more than \$3,000,000 or 32 per cent above the same period of 1950-51. The upward trend, the commission said, has been much more pronounced in recent months, passing 62 per cent for May's total of \$741,360 and averaging over 53 per cent for the past five months. Benefits during the last half of 1951 varied but little from the same period of 1950.

Claims Ahead of '51 The number of persons filing 1951-52 claims passed the 91,000 mark early in June, nearly 6000 more than were on record a year ago. Checks have been issued to nearly 75,000 of these claimants, about 7500 more than during the previous benefit year.

Fewer than 10,000, however, have exhausted their annual benefit rights as compared with almost 13,000 last year.

With the 1952-53 benefit year due to start in July, local offices will start taking the new claims later this month. An average of about 8000 claimants a week drew compensation in May but the total has been dropping steadily since the winter-time peak. Those filing compensable claims during the first week of June numbered 5679 against 4153 a year ago.

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Police Continuing Search for Slayer Of Elderly Woman

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These income items come to a grand total of \$1,671,950.20, and when subtracted from the total budget, leaves \$598,621.82 to be raised by county property taxes.

The tax total has not yet officially been applied to the new year's assessed valuation to reach a millage rate, but assessors expect it will be figured by some time this week.

Pickup Truck Hit By Switch Engine

A pickup truck operated by Carlee Wood Jr., route 1, box 265, Eagle Point, was struck by a Southern Pacific switch engine about 2 p. m. Friday at the Sixth street railway crossing, according to a city police report.

The truck had stalled on the track and Wood abandoned the vehicle before the collision, it was said. Wood's truck was carried about 15 feet after the impact, it was said. The left rear end of the car and the left front fender were damaged and a tire was blown.

According to police, Wood headed east, had been forced to stop on the tracks because of traffic halted at the Front street intersection. He then pulled into an offset because of the approaching train, but was not quite off the track. Robert R. Berryman, a passenger in the vehicle, got out and attempted to flag the train, police said they were told.

Traffic on Sixth street cleared ahead of Wood and he backed onto the tracks in order to get back into the traffic lane. At this point, his car stalled.

Three Given Jail Terms for Larceny

Douglas Eugene Brown, 25, Bemedji, Minn., and Lawrence William Brownell, 19, and Jeremiah Eugene Daily, 17, both Bremerton, Wash., were sentenced to six months in jail by District Judge Rawles Moore Thursday on petty larceny charges, according to district court records.

The young men have been held in the county jail since about May 20, thereby serving part of their time, and the balance of the jail term was suspended during good behavior.

The larceny charges involved thefts from autos from the Red Barn and the Y club, according to police records.

The 1701st Air Transport Wing at Great Falls AFB has been awarded the coveted Flight Safety plaque for the second consecutive time for its outstanding flight safety record.

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Eight Britains Killed In Channel Air Crash

London — (U.P.) — A chartered airplane crashed Saturday in the English channel, killing six of the eight Britons aboard.

Five of those aboard the plane were picked up by the 8,231-ton American freighter American Miller, but three of them died before a naval surgeon could reach them.

The 18,000-ton British Aircraft carrier Triumph and the destroyer Zest joined in an all-day search for the three missing persons. But the search was finally abandoned Saturday evening.

TOO WET FOR DUCKS

Eau Claire, Wis. — (U.P.) — It got too wet even for the ducks during a quick one-inch rainfall. Residents found a mother duck leading 17 ducklings to higher ground after the rainfall.

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