

Medford's First Million Dollar Budget Planned in '52-53; Proposal Reviewed

By ERIC ALLEN JR.
Mail Tribune City Editor

The 1952-53 Medford city budget—like the county's, the largest in history—was published for the first time last week. The budget totals \$1,007,138, the first time exceeding the million-dollar mark.

One of the reasons for the size of the budget is a new item this year, \$149,900 for the "state tax street fund," which is entirely offset by income from the state. Technically, it might not be considered actually a part of the city's budget, although Medford stands to benefit greatly, as far as street work is concerned, from the state gas tax money and other funds.

Briefly, and aside from this state money, the budget is composed of five funds. These are:

Five Funds

1. The general fund, totaling \$559,031. This is the "house-keeping fund" for the city, from

which it pays for the everyday business of running the city government, including most salaries, police work and general administration.

2. The bond funds, totaling \$114,000. This is the "mortgage fund" from which the city pays the principal and interest on debts for past improvements, which were financed through the sale of bonds.

3. Library fund, of \$14,703. This is a levy which in the past has been limited, like the city itself, to an increase of 6 percent each year. It is supplemented for the first time this year by a transfer from the general fund to meet the growing needs of the Medford Public Library.

4. Park continuing levy, estimated at \$38,241. This is the amount which will be brought in by a continuing one-mill levy for the support of the parks, the playgrounds and the swimming pool operated by the city. This too has proven insufficient, and requires a transfer from the general fund this year.

5. Fire department continuing levy, estimated at \$131,283. This is brought in by a four-mill continuing levy for support of the fire department, including the two new stations. City officials are now sorry that the voters were not asked for a six-mill—rather than a four-mill—levy, for the latter has proven to be inadequate and the fire department now requires a transfer of \$48,138 from the general fund this year.

Outside Limitation

The bond fire and park levies are outside the six per cent limitation; the library levy is not. Adding these five together, the total budget is \$857,238. With the addition of the \$149,000 from state revenues, the million-dollar total is reached.

For purposes of discussion, the library levy can be considered as a part of the general fund, with the two together totaling \$573,734. To aid in paying for this estimated expenditure, the city is expecting revenues of \$339,155. These include franchise earnings, licenses, fines, permits, rentals, parking meter receipts, state liquor profits, sewer charges, and a variety of other receipts. It is also estimated there will be a cash carry-over from this fiscal year of \$56,700, for a total of \$395,855, leaving \$177,879 still to be raised for general fund purposes.

Total Tax Amount

In addition, it is estimated that some \$10,000 in taxes due will not be received, making a total deficiency of \$187,879. This is the amount which will have to be raised by taxes, and which is subject to the six per cent limitation. It is \$33.56 below the limitation.

(The six per cent limit often confuses those who are not familiar with it. It is simply a provision that no municipality may increase its expenditures in one year more than six per cent above the average for the three preceding years. As the tax base was established years ago before large population increases, it now often works a severe hardship on taxing units, and as a result they must have yearly elections to approve budgets which are more than the allowable amount.)

The \$187,879 to be raised by taxes for the general fund, plus the \$114,000 to be raised by taxes to pay for voter-approved bonds and interest on them, a total of \$301,879, is the amount that city residents will pay in ad valorem taxes during the coming year.

All the rest of the budget will be paid from other sources, as described previously.

Police Fund Largest

In the general fund, the largest amount will go to the police department—\$113,680. Income to the department, through fines and other sources, is estimated at \$30,900.

Second-largest is \$108,893 for the street and sewer department, which expects to receive \$71,945 in income.

The fire department which, as explained, is partly general fund and partly continuing levy, will require \$131,283 to operate this year.

Other departmental totals, many of which are partially offset by departmental income, in-

Other Departments

Recorder, \$16,805 (down from \$19,180 last year); treasurer, \$9,192 (\$7,750 last year); traffic engineers, \$27,500 (a new budget classification, roughly comparable to "public works" of last year); general administration, \$72,857 (up from \$50,850 last year, and more than offset by expected income of \$89,985); engineers, \$55,009; sewage disposal, \$27,748; building inspection, \$16,001; airport, \$11,655 (up from \$6,920 last year, but more than offset by income expected to total \$19,150); city hall, \$15,987 (down from \$18,225 last year); and other smaller departments.

(One of these is the mayor and council fund, totaling \$4,850. This compares to \$11,460 last year. The bulk of the item, \$4,500, is for council expense, and includes funds for traveling, such as was necessary in inspecting fire department supplies, and handling other negotiations. Civil defense accounts for \$250, and \$100 is for supplies and telegrams. An item not appearing this year, which did last year, was \$4,250 for charter revision and surveys. The civil defense fund was \$2,500 last year.)

Plan Off-Street Parking

The city's tentative plans to do something to increase off-street parking facilities in downtown Medford are revealed in a \$5,500 item for this purpose in the traffic engineering department. It is offset entirely by \$5,500 expected income from meters and perhaps other sources, and gives the city an opportunity to begin work if the city council finds it feasible.

The budget also shows some of the city's sources of income. For instance, it will receive \$3,400 from Central Point and \$1,000 from White City in sewer charges; \$400 from sales of sewer effluent for fertilizer; \$900 from the federal government in lieu of taxes; \$8,000 in delinquent tax payments; refunds on gasoline taxes of \$1,800; beverage fees of \$370; liquor control commission profit apportionments of \$18,500; \$3,780 from rentals; \$6,220 from permits; \$30,500 from fines; \$32,910 from licenses, and \$37,300 from franchise earnings.

Reimbursement for Engineering Work

sidewalk construction and similar jobs will total some \$104,000.

Chop Amounts Down

In figuring the budget so that it will remain within the six per cent limitation, city budget committee members, including councilmen, were faced with the job of

chopping off \$100 here, \$50 there, and making other small cuts to make the budget "fit."

Two such cuts were in proposals for salary increases for the elective positions of recorder and treasurer. Each position now is paid \$4,500, and the original budget proposed an increase to \$4,800 effective July 1. The budgeters, pointing out that the terms of both offices expire January 1, voted to continue the salaries at \$4,500, with the proposed increase to become effective at the first of the year.

In addition to saving several hundred dollars, the action would eliminate any possible criticism of the salary for an elective position being increased during a term of office.

Other city employees' salaries were increased a small amount in the proposed budget. A public hearing on the spending proposals will be held in the city council chambers at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

Confessed Killer Awaits Trial In State Prison

Salem—U.P.—Albert William Karnes, who police said confessed to killing Mrs. Susan Litchfield, 82, with an ax in the shed of her home here two weeks ago, was in Oregon State Penitentiary Saturday.

Karnes, who was being held in The Dalles for the hammer assault of a woman there, was dressed in an Oregon State Penitentiary here Friday afternoon to await trial on first degree murder.

Two Oregon People Hurt In Chicago Train Mishap

Chicago—U.P.—Charles Cot, Astoria, Ore., and Dorothy Van Dendale, Portland, were among 30 persons who suffered minor injuries Friday night when two coaches of a streamliner train were derailed here during a switching operation.

Both were treated in the railroad dispensary.

The streamliner "City of Portland," belongs to the Chicago and North Western railroad.

Boy Injured As Car, Bicycle Collide Friday

Ten-year-old Raymond Carney, 210 Laurel street, received a slight injury on the head Friday afternoon when his bicycle was struck by a car.

Mrs. Shirley Hatcher, 23, of 927 Mt. Pitt avenue, was turning onto King street from West 11th street when her car collided with the boy's bicycle, according to the accident report. No traffic citations were issued. The boy told police that Mrs. Hatcher had stopped at the traffic signal at the intersection.

He was taken to Community hospital where two stitches were made on the left side of his head. He was also suffering from shock.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carney.

Woman Locates Husband On Television Program

Durham, N. C. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Terry Nixon Ewing said Saturday she had located her missing husband by television.

She said her husband abandoned her and their three children last April. A friend called her recently, she said, and told her to be sure and look at the next televised fight from Madison Square Garden in New York.

Mrs. Ewing followed instructions. She said the camera swung down an aisle for a crowd shot and she spotted her missing husband, clad in a white suit, selling soda pop.

She asked police to prepare warrants for his arrest.

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