



For Release: September 13, 2022

Caldwell County Commissioners adopt budget, tax rate

Caldwell County Commissioners have approved the FY 2022-2023 budget and set the 2022 tax rate, giving the county's various departments an economic roadmap to keep things firing on all cylinders during the next fiscal year.

The annual operating budget covers the cost of maintaining and improving more than 400 miles of roads, emergency management services, 911 emergency communications, public safety and law enforcement, elections, permitting and planning, pursuit of grants and numerous additional programs and benefits.

"This operating budget focuses on providing for our county's residents despite the rising cost of fuel, materials, goods and labor," Caldwell County Judge Hoppy Haden said. "The budget provides a fiscal roadmap to ensure the county maintains the roads, provides public safety and pays the employees that keep the wheels turning."

Commissioners approved a budget that includes \$31,049,514.30 in planned general fund expenses for the period beginning Oct. 1, 2022 and ending Sept. 30, 2023 at a special meeting on Sept. 9, and unanimously approved the 2022 tax rate at a regular meeting on Sept. 13, setting it at 55.32 cents per \$100 valuation, which is down from 67.19 cents in 2021.

Despite the tax rate decrease, the proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year by \$1,547,088 (or 7.5%) and of that amount \$293,946 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year. Appraised property values in the county rose by about 50% last year.

The county gets approximately 16 percent of the annual ad valorem taxes paid by a property owner.

"This budget is the culmination of the hard work of individual departments that assessed what they needed in the coming year to best serve the citizens of Caldwell County," Haden said. "Special thanks goes to our County Auditor Danie Teltow, who met with each department head to optimize their wish lists relative to what will be available to spend; Ezzy Chan, executive assistant to the county judge; and our commissioners, who held a number of workshops to discuss the budget relative to its goals for the future."

The adopted budget will be posted on the county's website at co.caldwell.tx.us.

