

Kirksville budget increases by 13 percent in 2011

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

The 2011 Kirksville budget increased 13 percent from last year's amended budget, slightly more than \$28 million.

Kirksville Finance Director Laura Guy said expected city revenue is down approximately 2 percent from 2010, with mostly owed bond issuances, lease proceeds and grants to blame.

The expected revenue this year is \$26 million. The budget was approved in December.

The increase in budget is the result of storm water infrastructure projects for 2011. Guy said the projects add \$1.7 million to the budget.

Besides storm water management projects, funding with city partnerships such as GIS Consortium and Kirk-Tran also were closed in 2010, Guy said.

No city departments received cuts in the 2011 budget. They were just told to keep spending consistently, Guy said.

Guy said the general fund supports many essential services, including the police departments, fire departments and streets.

Utilities services account for 39 percent of the budget, which includes water, sewer, solid waste and storm water management expenses. Emergency services account for 18 percent, Guy said.

She said this year's budget had challenges because of a lack of sales tax revenue made from local spending, which helps fund general services, street improvements and capital needs.

To generate more revenue in the utility fund the rates per 100 cubic feet of water used were increased 10 percent, Guy said.

Carl Brooks, city of Kirksville engineer, said 20 storm water

management projects were evaluated in 2010.

Of those 20 projects evaluated, final engineering plans and specifications will be prepared for six projects.

Construction is scheduled to begin in August. Weather permitting, all proposed storm water projects should be completed in October 2012, he said.

The storm water projects currently are in the design stage, and the open houses tentatively are scheduled for March 14 and 22 for citizens to express their comments and concerns with the engineer and see the project designs.

Some projects will repair pipes and storm boxes to reduce the potential of flooding, he said.

"Basically instead of the streets being the storm water pipes, we're actually going to

get it into the gutter pans of the street, curb and gutter, get into a box, get it into a box and then convey it away," Brooks said.

The \$2.2 million bond funding for the storm water projects became available through Adair County, which received the funding from President Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The last comprehensive city storm water management plan was completed in the 1970s. Within the next 20 years, the storm water bonds will be repaid through an additional \$2.20 charge on Kirksville residents' water, sewer, trash and storm water bills, he said.

Kirksville Mayor Todd Kuhns said the budget is sound, but some projects and construction still are being postponed. There are now

road construction projects this year. Instead the money will go toward maintenance to sustain the current roads, he said.

"We are just girding for the possibility of not having as much income and taxes this coming year," Kuhns said.

He said the city manager and staff created a conservative budget, so the City Council did not face any major challenges before passing it.

"We've had slightly fewer dollars to work with in the last couple years, but not to an overwhelming degree — probably not to the degree that most cities have been facing," Kuhns said.

He said the city is working to turn the situation around, such as pledging support and money for the possible A.T. Still University dental school.

BUDGET:	REVENUE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 budget is more than \$28 million • Up 13 percent from last year's amended budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 expected revenue is \$26 million • Down approximately 2 percent from 2010

Truman seeks new master's program in science

BY NATALIE VONARX
Staff Reporter

Truman hopes to gain approval from the Missouri Department of Higher Education to establish a new Masters of Professional Science program that would be implemented by Fall 2011.

Truman's program would be the first in Missouri to emphasize bioscience informatics, which would prepare students to work in an agro-technology environment for companies such as Monsanto or Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

Representatives from these industries would serve on an advisory board to ensure the students will be employable and serve the needs of the industries.

The idea of creating a PSM at Truman was articulated in fall 2009 by professor of

Mathematics and Computer Science Jon Beck and professor of Biology Laura Fielden. Maria Di Stefano, dean of graduate studies, said one of the benefits of bringing such a program to Truman is that many courses necessary to complete the master's already are offered at Truman through the Master's of Sciences in Biology.

"It is not that we are creating new courses and we had to hire new faculty, but it is really leveraging the resources that we already have on campus," Di Stefano said.

Di Stefano said bringing the PSM to Truman adds strength to the graduate offerings and would increase enrollment.

"At this point, adding a program that will increase enrollment is certainly something the University is looking for," Di Stefano said.

"Additionally, there will be added revenue for the University, obviously coming from additional students as well."

The PSM was developed in 1997 and now consists of 200 programs at more than 100 institutions, mostly based on the East and West coasts. The program consists of partly science-based coursework and a professional element, such as business or communications coursework.

In Fall 2010, University of Delaware launched a PSM program in bioinformatics and biotechnology. There currently are two students enrolled in the bioinformatics program and approximately 10 students in the biotechnology program, said Katie Lakofsky, University of Delaware Center for Bioinformatics coordinator. The

bioinformatics PSM program is partnered with industries such as W.L. Gore, Dupont Experimental Station and Adesis, Inc.

"We went out and discussed it with our local industries to see what needs they needed to have filled," Lakofsky said. "What the industries were saying was that 'Yes there are a lot of scientists in the area, however people are coming out with science degrees,' but they didn't understand the business aspect. We've tried to fill that need and we are trying to create students that have both the science knowledge and the business knowledge."

The PSM offers a new route science scholars can take, Di Stefano said.

"Typically in the sciences master's, degrees were, more than anything else, one of the steps in the process of get-

ting a doctorate degree," Di Stefano said. "An individual that graduated with a master's degree in the sciences without a doctorate typically didn't have that many more options available than someone who had a bachelor's degree. To complete the professional preparation people needed to go into a doctorate program and be very interested in following the research route."


The program provides the opportunity for students to complete graduate work in the sciences without necessarily going on to earn a doctorate degree. At the same time, the program trains students in professional development that is not included in science curriculum. Courses that would be taken in addition to graduate science courses might include courses in business,

finance or bioethics.

So far, the PSM program has been approved by the Graduate Council, the Faculty Senate and the Board of Governors — thus completing the approval process at the university level. The next step is obtaining approval from the MDHE.

Senior associate of MDHE Rusty Monhollon said factors for approval include the costs for starting and sustaining a program, curriculum of a program, necessity of a program, and whether the program is being duplicated unnecessarily.

"There's a range of different criteria that we look at and it's really a balancing act of looking at all the things and making a judgment on whether the program will be viable and effective and of benefit value to the state," Monhollon said.




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What's happening?

#Monday	#Tuesday	#Wednesday	#Thursday
Key Note Speaker Marjorie Mao Executive Director of Nebraskans for the Arts	"The Forensics of Communication: An Interactive Showcase"	"Social" Event 7:00, SUB Georgian B Sponsored by NCASC	Faculty/Student Potluck Free Dinner Social
"PR Through the Back Door"	Speech and Debate Activities 7:00, Magruder 1000		7:00, University Club Sponsored by LPH and Ad & PR
7:00, SUB Georgian B Sponsored by LPH and Ad & PR	All Week: Silent Auction and NBS video resumes in the Barnett atrium		

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