

Erath County Judge’s Summary (9/11/2019)

The Erath County Commissioner’s Court (Court) met this morning to finalize the Tax Rate and 2019-2020 County Budget. I am happy to announce that we were able to adjust the tax rate and adopt a rate of \$.4560, a decrease from the initial proposed rate.

The Court adopted a final Budget and Tax Rate by a unanimous vote.

	Adopted	Proposed	2019	2018	2017
General Operations Rate	0.3002	.3024	0.2963	0.2988	0.2966
Indigent Health Care Rate	0.0275	.0263	0.270	0.260	0.261
Debt Service Rate	0.0157	.0157	0.000	0.0202	0.223
Road & Bridge Rate	0.1116	.1216	0.1225	0.1250	0.1250
Property Tax Rate	\$.4560	.4660	\$.4458	\$.4700	\$.4700

Descriptions:

General Operations is used to operate all county functions except for activities of the four precincts; Indigent Health Care is used to pay for medical care of indigent county residents and inmates at the jail; Debt Service is collected to pay for long term debt; and Road & Bridge (also called Flood Control Rate) is collected and divided among the four precincts for road maintenance and related activities.

Rates are per \$100 valuation.

The Tax Rate increase adds \$15.70 to the tax bill on a \$100,000 home/or property value.

2019-2020 Approved Budget <http://co.erath.tx.us/Budgets/2019-2020 Approved Budget.pdf>

2019-2020 Proposed budget <http://co.erath.tx.us/Budgets/2019-2020 Proposed Budget.pdf>

Major items included in the Final Budget:

- +/- \$1.5M Radio upgrades to improve communications for the Sheriff’s Office and Emergency Responders (about 300 users of the system).
- +/- \$400,000 for a new public safety software system for the Sheriff’s Office. The system is comprised of Computer-Aided Dispatch, Mapping, Records Management, Jail Management, Civil Process Tracking, Reporting, and other features designed to improve safety, efficiency, and reliability.
- +/- \$400,000 in a salary increase proposal of \$2,000 per year for most of our +/-200 employees.
- +/- \$4M that was previously budgeted to pay our jail debt, will be carried over to the new budget and used for a capital project that will add much needed office space.

All of the above are significant expenses, but we feel they are long-overdue.

Please contact my office with any opinions or suggestions at (254) 965-1415 or send me an email at countyjudge@co.erath.tx.us We are here to serve you, until next time –

Regards,



Alfonso Campos – Erath County Judge