



July 15, 2015
#150715- FYBUDGET

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Budget Workshops & Public Hearings **- Proposed Budget Message, Budget Available Online-**

The fiscal year 2015/2016 budget workshops for Santa Rosa County Constitutional Officers and the Commission departments are scheduled for Tuesday, July 21. The workshop for the constitutional officers begins at 9 a.m. and the workshop for the commission departments following at 1:30 p.m. Both meetings are in the Santa Rosa County Commission Meeting Room located at 6495 Caroline Street in Milton.

According to Santa Rosa County Administrator Hunter Walker's budget message, the total operating budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 is \$109,657,401, including a general fund budget of \$73,644,905. The county administrator's full budget message and proposed budget can be found online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/budget.

The proposed budget recommends an increase in the millage rate to 6.4911 from the current 6.0953 mills, a 6.4 percent increase to match recurring expenses with recurring revenue. If adopted by the commission, the new rate would increase property tax by \$39.58 per \$100,000 of taxable property value. The proposed rate is still one of the lowest millage rates in the county's history:

- 2014 to 2008 – 6.0953 mills
- 2007 to 2001 – 6.6175 mills
- 2000 and earlier – 6.9720 mills

With no increase, the current millage rate creates a shortfall of \$2.8 million. This shortfall is the result of an additional \$990,000 Medicaid requirement from the state, \$1.4 million in equipment for replacement vehicles and computer system/equipment to meet FDLE reporting requirements for the Sheriff's office, and reductions in revenue including lease fees and communication taxes.

The budget process also includes two public hearings – the first Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. and the final meeting Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. before the fiscal year 2015/2016 budget is finalized and approved by the board. All meetings are open to the public and held in the commission meeting room located at 6495 Caroline Street. The meetings are also streamed live and available for replay at www.santarosa.fl.gov.

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