

Patterns in dryness



Firefighters put out a grass fire on K-27 just north of Eighth Street about 3 p.m. Tuesday. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Education will be hot topic

BUDGET, from Page 1

ing side. Kansas and federal law would require the state to increase its spending by \$318 million during fiscal 2003, at a time when, Graves has calculated, revenue would support about \$108 million less in general fund spending.

Q: Why would the state be obligated to increase spending?

A: In some cases, legislators made promises in previous years and put them into law.

For example, the 1999 reorganization of Kansas' higher education system carried a pledge of extra money to universities, community colleges and vocational schools. For fiscal 2003, the amount is \$46 million.

Some social services, like welfare, are considered entitlements under federal law, meaning the state must serve anyone who is eligible. Entitlements are expected to cost the state nearly \$120 million more in fiscal 2003.

One example, costs for medical services for the needy are rising because more people are seeking the services and health care is getting more expen-

sive.

Q: State officials talk of "general fund" spending. What does that mean?

A: The \$4.5 billion general fund holds most of the state's tax revenue and forms the largest money source for state programs.

Q: Is the general fund budget the entire budget?

A: No.

The entire budget includes spending financed by federal funds, university tuition, bonds issued by state agencies, licensing fees and other revenue sources. The current "all funds" budget for fiscal 2002 is \$9.2 billion.

However, when Graves and legislators talk about the budget, they usually mean the general fund budget. The Associated Press also uses general fund figures, except where the story requires different ones.

Q: Why do state officials usually talk about the general fund budget?

A: First, the general fund finances general government operations. Other sources of revenue — university tuition, for example — are dedicated to specific purposes.

Also, the general fund is the part of the budget over which the state has the most control, because the governor and Legislature can raise or lower state tax rates.

Other sources of revenue, including federal funds, are less predictable.

The all funds budget can fluctuate, based on when federal funds arrive, or when an agency decides to spend bond proceeds. For example, Graves is now projecting an all funds budget for 2002 of nearly \$9.5 billion — \$283 million more than estimated last year.

Q: If spending from all funds continues to increase, why are Graves and legislators talking about cutting programs and increasing taxes?

A: Again, the state won't have enough money to sustain its current general fund spending next year. It has limited ability to draw from other sources to meet expenses.

The Department of Education consumes 52 percent of the general fund budget, the higher education system 16 percent, and the departments of Aging and Social and Rehabilitation Services 17 percent.

Legislators have tough choices to make on budget

By The Associated Press

Legislators will soon have to decide how to cover the expected \$426 million chasm between state revenues and required spending for fiscal 2003, which starts July 1.

On the table already are Gov. Bill Graves' balanced-budget plan; his proposal to raise taxes to avoid some of the cuts in his budget plan; and a plan by top Senate Republicans.

Here are details:

Overall Budget

Graves Budget: Cut spending in fiscal 2003 by \$233 million, about 5.2 percent, to less than \$4.3 billion, from \$4.5 billion in fiscal 2002. No tax increases or use of "rainy day" funds.

Graves Tax Plan: Raise \$228 million in fiscal 2003 by increasing cigarette, sales and motor fuels taxes and vehicle registration fees. Overall spending would still decrease, but only by about \$42 million, or 0.9 percent.

Senate GOP: Use \$104 million in rainy day funds and \$20.6 million in tobacco settlement funds, and raise \$4 million in fiscal 2003 by collecting money from the Kansas Lottery more quickly. Cut the current budget about \$85 million, or 1.9 percent, to \$4.4 billion and freeze it at that level in fiscal 2003.

Public Schools

Graves Budget: Cut state aid to public schools \$158 per pupil in fiscal 2003, to \$3,712 from \$3,870, to save \$91.1 million.

Graves Tax Plan: Increase aid to public schools in fiscal 2003 by \$20 per pupil, to \$3,890.

Senate GOP: Cut aid to public schools by \$39 per pupil now, to \$3,831, and freeze it at that level in fiscal 2003.

Higher Education

Graves Budget: Withhold \$46 million promised to higher education in fiscal 2003 under the 1999 reorganization law, and cut another \$27 million, or 3.8 percent.

Graves Tax Plan: Increase spending on higher education by \$8 million in fiscal 2003, with \$1 million for scholarships.

Senate GOP: Withhold the \$46 million promised in 1999, cut another \$8.5 million and save \$11 million by revising university pension costs.

Social Services

Graves Budget: Add almost \$120 million to the fiscal 2002 and 2003 budgets to cover unanticipated costs of medical services and other benefits for the needy, but cut other programs more than \$28.4 million.

Graves Tax Plan: Cover the unanticipated costs and make \$17.1 million in cuts in other programs.

Senate GOP: Cover the unanticipated costs but cut the current budgets of the departments on Aging and Social and Rehabilitation Services a total of \$14.5 million, then freeze spending in fiscal 2003.

Transportation

Graves Budget: Eliminate a scheduled transfer of \$147 million in sales tax revenue to highway projects in fiscal 2003.

Graves Tax Plan: Eliminate the scheduled transfer of sales tax revenues but replace it over seven years with money generated from higher motor fuels tax and vehicle registration fee.

Senate GOP: Keep sales tax transfer at its current level, saving \$46 million in fiscal 2003.

Corrections

Graves Budget: Save \$5.6 million by closing conservation camps for men and women in Labette County and minimum-security prisons in Osawatomie, Stockton and Toronto. Cut community corrections programs by \$1 million.

Graves Tax Plan: Cut community corrections spending, leave camps and minimum-security prisons open.

Senate GOP: Cut 2 percent or about \$4.2 million now from Department of Corrections and prisons, freeze spending at that level in fiscal 2003.

State Employees

Graves Budget: No pay raises for state workers in fiscal 2003, but cover \$13 million in unanticipated health coverage costs and contribute another \$5.8 million to employee pensions.

Graves Tax Plan: Cover the health and pension costs, raise most state

Clark wants to tap skills

CLARK, from Page 1

areas or move back after college.

"Too long, we have neglected this obvious pool of talent," Clark said. "That pool of talent is our high school graduates."

The young business owners will need help with finance, marketing and production, the senator said. Instead of looking outside for experts, he said, communities can find the resources within.

"Ownership will be local," Clark said. "Money stays in the community. The whole area will prosper."

The senator focused his first newsletter of the legislative session, which began on Jan. 14, on the Sirolli strategy.

"The belief is that in every community, no matter how small or economically depressed, there will exist some people for whom a unique work in which they may or may not yet be skilled is a passionate driving force," he wrote.

"Also, within that same community, are others that possess the skills necessary that can assist in developing, testing and transforming the idea into a successful business."

It's a new way of thinking, he said, because economic development has

traditionally been aimed at bringing in large, outside businesses. The senator said that is rarely successful because the company eventually moves to another city.

Clark said he has long believed in the bottom-up, not top-down, approach to economic development, and he thinks Sirolli can help rural Kansas.

Of course, he said, it will take hard work and imagination.

"It will take a lot of elbow grease from the community," he said. "Part of it is just attitude. We have to believe in ourselves and in our dreams."

The senator said creative ideas can become successful businesses.

He used Martha Bishop's Puppet Factory in Goodland as an example. Bishop's puppets are sold around the world.

"Now is the time to crystallize your dream, pool our resources...," he wrote in his newsletter.

But meanwhile, Clark will be wallowing in budget problems with the rest of the Legislature. He said he will only support raising taxes as a last resort. Gov. Graves has proposed increasing cigarette, sales and motor fuels taxes.

"It's not a good idea when the farm economy is in bad shape and people are getting laid off," he said. "Everybody else is having to tightening their belts.

The state of Kansas should serve as an example."

This session, Clark is chairman of the Utilities Committee, and a member of the Assessment and Taxation, Administrative Rules and Regulations, Elections and Local Government and Organization, Calendar and Rules committees.

This summer, he said, he was part of an interim committee that dealt with agriculture problems in Kansas. He said bills have been drafted from their discussions to help farmers and ranchers compete with large agri-businesses.

The bills include one requiring "country of origin" labels on meat so consumers know where their meat is coming from, one that would help farmers market their product and one establishing legal protection for farmers.

Clark said whether he supports spending more money on public education this year depends on how the budget problems are solved. The senator said feeding more money into education is only a temporary solution, because the main problem is declining population.

Rural development, he said, will be a main focus of his this year.

"I'm trying to go to core issues here," he said.

Fire drill considered a success

DRILL, from Page 1

drill in September, but postponed it after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11.

"By now, maybe they'll think I decided not to do it," she said before she started the drill, "or maybe they forgot about it."

Goodland police and fire departments knew in advance and showed up at the school with lights flashing, which worried some students.

"Maybe there really is a fire this time," said one.

"The fire trucks never come to these things," said another.

"I have no idea what's going on," a teacher said.

Teacher Richard Schwasinger knew what it was.

"Nothing to worry about," he muttered when he came out of the building. "It's just a drill."

The idea was to test the school's response, which was not bad.

Students bunched together on the

north, west, and south sides across the street from the school in less than two minutes. Teachers counted heads and timed the evacuation. Nobody rushed and nobody panicked.

Messamore called it a success.

"The only corrective action we will have to take," she said, "is making sure students don't stand too close to the north side of the building."

Messamore grabbed a couple of stu-

dents and stashed them in a bathroom during the drill to see if teachers would notice they were missing. They noticed one was missing, but the other had been brought back inside after he had already counted him outside.

There was a slight hitch when Messamore pulled the first alarm. It didn't work. The school is putting in a new system and the wires were disconnected, so she had to pull another one.

Wassup?

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Restaurant Equipment Auction

Saturday, January 26, 2002
10:00 a.m. CST (doors open @ 8 a.m. day of sale)
Auction Location: National Guard Armory - Colby, KS
The Armory will be open from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 25th for viewing of the items.

Double walk-in cooler 8x8 - 8x12 • 18" Dean fryer (gas with auto melt cycle) • 3 - 24" Dean fryer (gas with auto melt cycle) • 8 - Fry baskets (6 1/2 x 13 x 5 1/2) • 3 - Clam baskets (4 3/4 x 9 1/4 x 5 1/2) • Dean filter machine • Stanley Knight Hot food table • Cupola • US Ribbon Sign lexan face (30"x24") • Amana Microwave oven (1400 watt) • 2 - Microwave shelf ss (22" deep x 19" wide) • Chowder cooker • 2 - Food warmer • 2 - Toaster bun warmers • Univex slaw machine • 6 head drink tower with overhead ice dispenser with carbonator • 6 head drink tower with carbonator • Batter water dispenser • 2 - 24" x 36" light boxes • 2 - 32 oz Pelouse scale • NCC programmable timer with probe (tnc-c9010-010) • 8 - Grey bus tubs (19 1/2" x 15 1/4" x 5" deep) • 4 - Stainless Steel 3qt 10" x 4" pan • 2 - Pizza Pride 301-3z R-L 208v pizza oven • Pizza hood & cap • 2 - Merco 4' pizza buffet warmers • 20 - 16" round pizza pans • 16 - 18" round pizza pans • 3 - 16" cheese ring • 3 - 18" cheese ring • 20 - 14" square pizza pans • 26 - 12" square pizza pans • 2 terminals & kvs system • Remote printer • Drive thru headsets • Double undercounter Frig • Safe • 6' Prep table w/drawer • 5' Prep table w/drawer & shelf • 4' Prep table w/undershelf • Ice cuber • 500# ice bin • Menu board - light can (6 section) • Refrigerator/Freezer • 2 - Dinning room trash receptacles • 2 - Outdoor waste receptacles • Several wooden doors • Several bi-fold doors • Bathroom vanities • Side by side refrigerator • 2000 Ole Hickory model SSL fully automatic smoker oven with 15 chrome racks. Wood/Natural Gas with electric evac. Shutter. Cooks absolutely great. Wood + 117 volt. Cooker is on castors for maneuverability. • 24qt Hobart mixer (rebuild) with tinned bowl, beater, Royal whip & dough hook - 117 volt • 24qt stainless steel bowl (almost new) • New, Royal 587 cast roller - never used • 10" Globe slicer - almost new - 117 volt • 24" Stainless steel mixer stand with castors • 3 compartment stainless steel sink - almost new • 2 compartment stainless steel deep sink • 4 burner Rankin counter top burners • 6 burner Char Broiler burners rebuilt by MW Energy • 4 hole steam table with stainless pan inserts - 230 volt (2 elements out) • 6 - 12 hole muffin pans • Assorted stainless cooking pans and bowls • 10" slaw cutter attachment with 3/32" cutter for Hobart mixer • 72" insulated Heat & Hold cabinet for 17x22 pans - 117 volt • 30" Heat & Hold cabinet with castors - 120 volt • 2 - Commercial crank can openers • Perfect Fry fully automatic deep fat fryer - 230 volt • 24 - Stainless Steel half pans 4 1/2" deep • 24 - Stainless Steel half pan lids • 3 - full size stainless steel pans 6" deep with lids • 2 - full size stainless steel pans 2 1/4" deep • 6 - Cambro half pans 4 1/2" deep • 6 - Cambro half pan lids • Cabro insulated catering container (8 half pans x 4 1/2" deep). • Assorted spoons, slotted spoons, spatulas, pumps, tongs, small wares, etc. • Condiment drink station • 3 - Condiment pumps • Coffee machine • Batter mixer • Pie display case • High chairs • Booster chairs • Hatco Warmers • Cutting Boards • Stainless steel soup insert • Stainless steel pitcher • 110 volt fudge pump • Stanchion Sign • Racks & Shelves • Corn cooker • Stainless steel kitchen sink • Mirrors • 20" electric stove (very good condition) • Several smaller restaurant items not listed.

Lunch will be served

Auctioneers note: This is another outstanding line of restaurant equipment offered to you from TNT Auction. Everything is in good to excellent condition. Transportation is available from the Colby Municipal Airport.

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