

June 8, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Today is Monday, June 8th and this is a 4:00 update. Roane County's positive cases of Covid-19 continue to rise with 3,576 people tested. Our new numbers, as of 2:30 pm today, are 21 positives, 13 have recovered. This is an increase from 16 positives since June 2nd.

The state has a push to aggressively test the most vulnerable population as they are testing assisted living facilities and nursing home personnel and clients.

It's Budget time as the Budget Committee and County Commission deliberate on closing the 2020 Financials and the appropriation for the 2021 Budget.

County Commission meets tonight to consider 13 Budget Resolutions and the acceptance of four (4) Budget Committee minutes.

The Fiscal Year ending June 30th appears to close as expected with the General Fund losing around \$900,000. This loss makes decisions more difficult for the 2021 Budget as the County will lose another \$800,000 in State Inmate Revenue.

The Budget Committee is looking to reduce County Government and has recommended elimination and reducing funding of:

- UT Ag-Extension
- Federal Soil Conservation
- Reducing Funds of Tourism of \$20,000 and Industrial Development Building of \$30,000
- Reduction of Non Profit Contribution of about \$50,000

As of right now, these are the proposed cuts. What we are hearing from the public is our taxes are too high. So we are cutting some programs and we may not be finished.

The Budget Committee and County Commission need to deliberate to see exactly what we are going to do regarding funding or cutting programs.

God bless Roane County, our State, and our Nation!

Rw/ba
C:media