

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

High fuel prices and ever increasing costs led the Chase County commissioners to approve a 2012-13 budget that increases tax requests 7.96 percent over last year's budget.

For the 2012-13 budget, the county has requested \$2,508,250. That's an increase of \$185,020 over the 2011-12 tax request of \$2,323,230.

County Commissioner Chuck Vette of Wauneta said it was not an easy decision to ask for the increase but said it was necessary to keep pace with rising costs.

Those costs reduced the county's cash reserves to a level below the expectations of the commissioners, he noted.

High fuel prices continue to take a bite in the budget, he said, especially in the roads department.

Overall, costs continue to increase across the board, he said, making the increase necessary.

The proposed tax levy for the county budget will stand at \$0.341262 for every \$100 of valuation. That's an increase from last year's levy of \$0.331261.