

Supervisors lift hiring freeze

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Susan Meeker/Glenn County Transcript

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The Glenn County Board of Supervisors has lifted the hiring freeze implemented last month, but only for those positions not funded by the general fund.

County officials said the budget ad-hoc budget committee has managed to whittle the \$2.6 million budget deficit down to about \$505,000, but mostly by requiring departments to adhere to their prior year funding levels.

Despite District Attorney Dwayne Stewart expected revenue projections this year to be at the highest level the department has seen in four or five years — due to prosecuting more cases — the Glenn County Board of Supervisors last week said it was still too early to commit to hiring another prosecutor.

Supervisor John Viegas said the county is still in limbo as to the affect Proposition 47 will have on the criminal justice system in Glenn County.

"We still don't know what all the impacts will be or from Prop. 47 or from AB 109," Viegas said.

Proposition 47, which went into effect on Jan. 1, reclassified nonserious and nonviolent property and drug crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor to reduce state prison populations.

Assembly Bill 109 in 2011 resulted in realigning certain felony convicted persons from state prisons to local jails.

The affect on counties from the state changing the way certain criminals are handled is being analyzed by the Rural County Representatives of California, Viegas said. County officials said in addition to adhering to prior year funding levels, the budget committee also found some additional of revenue since the May announcement that the county is staring its next fiscal year in the red.

Lamb said the state will pay Glenn County \$277,000 plus \$64,000 in interest on mandated cost claims, which will lower the deficit by \$340,000.

Officials also freed another \$100,000 by removing funding for flood control maintenance of the J Levee, and they anticipate an additional \$17,000 from the state for payment in lieu of taxes.

Glenn County Board Chairman Steve Soeth said the county plans to balance the budget on paper before July 1 by dipping into reserves, while still hoping additional revenue will be realized before they formalize their spending plan by Oct. 1.

Officials said much will depend on the state budget, but that it is too early to accurately predict what impact it will have on the county's budget.

"The numbers seem to be bouncing all over the place," Lamb said.

http://www.appeal-democrat.com/glenn_county_transcript/supervisors-lift-hiring-freeze/article_2098aa4c-0f19-11e5-98ab-2fc0d73245e8.html