Officials: No tax break this year

Oconee to unveil 2013 budget tonight

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee taxpayers should not expect a break this year.



Moulder

County officials indicated Monday that a tight budget all but ruled out a tax cut.

"It's going to be tough," County Council Chairman Joel Thrift said, when asked if property taxes would be reduced. "It'll be tough for a tax cut this year."

County Administrator Scott Moulder, who is scheduled to unveil the 2013 budget at a special council meeting tonight, said the operating millage — which had dipped the past two fiscal years — won't go down this time around.

"I think it'll end up staying the same," Moulder said of the property tax rate.

According to Moulder, the previous tax breaks were possible because the value of the mill had climbed. He said the value of the mill went down following the countywide reassessment.

Moulder originally wanted to present the new budget a month ago, but canceled after it became clear he would need more time to make up for a revenue shortfall of approximately $4 million.

IF YOU GO

What: Special Oconee County Council Meeting. A key topic will be taxation.
Why: 2013 Budget Presentation
When: 6 p.m. today
Where: Council Chambers, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla

Over the past few weeks, Moulder has pressed county departments to shave 25 percent from their operations, but to not impact personnel.

Thrift, who is turning the gavel for tonight's meeting over to Vice Chairman Paul Corbeil because of a previous commitment, said he anticipates a balanced budget.

As for the School District of Oconee County's request for an additional $3.7 million from the county, Thrift said he doesn't think that is going to happen.

"I don't expect it being fully funded," Thrift said of the request.

Moulder said he would not be recommending additional personnel positions in the 2013 budget.

This will be Moulder's second budget since taking over as administrator in June 2010.

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