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City Council approves annual budget

City Council approved a budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, that invests in public safety, the Burleson Public Library, the city's Parks and Recreation system, emergency management, infrastructure and more.

On Monday, the City Council approved a budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, that invests in public safety, the Burleson Public Library, the city's Parks and Recreation system, emergency management, infrastructure and more. The City Council also voted to decrease the property tax rate, the first tax rate decrease Burleson property owners have seen in five years. Some property owners may see their city tax bills rise if the assessed values of their property increased.

The \$86.84 million dollar budget provides funding for seven new firefighter positions, six of which are grant-funded. This staffing addition is a large step in bringing the fire department's staffing levels to four fire personnel per apparatus, per shift. In the area of emergency management, funding for a storm camera that will be placed on the water tower located near SW Alsbury Blvd and NW Summercrest Blvd was approved. This addition will continue to keep Burleson residents safe during storm season.

Parks and recreation highlights include funding for a dog park, Village Creek Trail segments from Chisenhall Sports Complex to FM 731, shade canopies at Chisenhall Fields and Bailey Lake Park improvements.

The City has also approved funding for the design and implementation of five railroad crossing quiet zones along with pedestrian crossing improvements in the Old Town area.

Other portions of the budget continue funding for important upgrades to the city's infrastructure. These include the continued five-year neighborhood street rehabilitation program along with the annual sidewalk program that provides the city's youth safe routes to school and a detention pond at Mistletoe Park.

The Burleson Public Library will be getting upgraded equipment in the Children's Learning Center, electronic displays and mobile print services that will allow patrons to print directly from their phone to a printer in the library.

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