Proposed county budget includes furloughs

BY RAY LIGHTNER STAFF WRITER
RAY@GRAFFRINDDAILYNEWS.COM

Spalding County's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014 includes 14 furlough days for county employees to balance the budget.

According to the budget proposed by County Manager William Wilson Jr., the 14 furlough days would include the 10 paid county holidays, plus four more days.

"In order to provide minimum disruption to Spalding County taxpayers," Wilson said in a letter to the commissioners sent with the proposed budget, "it is recommended these (10) holidays be without pay and the remaining four days be designated as unpaid holidays to allow for the closing of county facilities. Recommendation dates have yet to be determined."

The furloughs, which Wilson referred to as "extreme measures," are a proposed solution to make up a $1.3 million shortfall in the county's budget.

Wilson said, was in the 2005 SPLDST Capital Project Fund, which ended this year with the completion of the new Senior Center.

Other cuts in the budget include removal of longevity pay and cost-of-living adjustments for employees, new positions and the elimination of funding for 15 currently vacant positions. These positions include five at the Fire Department, four at the Sheriff's Office, two each with Clerk of Court and Public Works, and one each in Parks and Recreation and Tax Commissioner.

Funding levels stay the same with the Land Bank Authority ($59,000), Griffin Spalding Development Authority ($190,000), Superior Court ($178,590) and Public Defender ($335,605). The Land Bank and Development Authority had asked for more this year, with the Development Authority asking for $582,075.

Additional cuts, Wilson said include reducing com-