



COURTESY PHOTO

## Storm brings striking display of lightning

Robert Campbell photographed these lightning bolts Sunday at the Blanco Verde Ranch, south of Lampasas on U.S. Highway 183.

## City Council hears FY 2022 departmental budget requests

BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

The city of Lampasas is proposing a Fiscal Year 2022 budget that will not include an increase in utility or tax rates.

Discussions about the city's upcoming fiscal year budget continued this week as department heads presented their cases for consideration.

For about two hours on Monday, officials reviewed budget requests for eight of the 21 city departments — streets, water/wastewater, electric, parks, police, fire department, information systems and finance.

City Manager Finley deGraffenried told the council during Monday's special session that if interest sparked to discuss other departments, city staff would oblige. Council members did not mention other departments.

DeGraffenried told the council that "typically what we do is use this base budget, and we make modifications in a form of a budget memo, and there may be as many as five or

six budget memos until we get things ironed out."

He added that the city staff wants to minimize unnecessary paperwork during the budget process.

The potential 2022 budget anticipates expenditures of \$30.6 million, close to the \$31.5 million in the current fiscal year's budget.

The general fund, which covers public safety and day-to-day operations for the city, lists projected expenses of about \$11.3 million. The general fund is part of the overall budget that includes enterprise funds such as water/sewer, solid waste and aviation.

Included in the base budget, according to staff reports, are the purchase of two police patrol vehicles; pool liner and upgrades at Hanna Springs Swimming Pool; a water/wastewater utility pick-up truck and haul trailer; and work on the Hostess House, along with upgrades at Campbell Park and the new skate park.

### STREET

The street department's FY22 budget request

shows expenditures of \$1.1 million, with a deficit of \$868,069. Several other departments also show a deficit in budget projections.

DeGraffenried previously told the Dispatch Record that the draft reflects staff beginning "to show direct income and direct expense to indicate the cost of operating those departments."

The city expects to transfer revenue to those departments.

Street Superintendent Carlos Garcia gave status updates on several street projects.

The city is moving forward with its East Third Street rehabilitation project. Garcia said his department is working with civil engineering firm Eckermann Engineering, Inc. on plans. No specific date was mentioned for the project to start.

### ELECTRIC

Texas cities still are feeling the aftermath of Winter Storm Uri,

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## Many school supplies exempt from sales taxes this weekend

BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO  
DISPATCH RECORD

With school districts across Texas ready to begin the new school year, the annual Sales Tax Holiday begins Aug. 6 and runs through Sunday.

As Texas' social distancing guidelines have been relaxed, residents can expect a busy shopping weekend for stores in the area.

The tax-free weekend provides an opportunity for parents to purchase required items for their children to be ready for school and to save a few dollars in the process.

Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar spoke about the upcoming tax-free weekend in a news release on his office's website.

"For many families with children who are going back to their school campuses for the first time since the pandemic began, the sales tax holiday is the perfect opportunity to save money on school supplies

and other tax-free items," Hegar said. "As a father with three school-aged children myself, I know how these expenses can add up."

Texas law exempts specific items such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks from tax if the items are less than \$100 in cost. Three lesser-known items that can be purchased during the tax-free weekend are face masks, glasses and diapers.

The Texas Legislature sets the date of the sales tax holiday, as well as the items that qualify for this exemption.

Qualifying items can be bought online, by telephone, by mail or through in-store purchases during this time period to receive the tax exemption. The only stipulation for purchases that must be shipped to the customer is that the item must be paid for during the tax-free holiday.

The sales tax holiday has

been a part of the Texas landscape since 1999, and the comptroller's office estimates that shoppers have saved an estimated \$107.3 million since the holiday's inception.

A Walmart representative said the retailer has added options for customers with pickup and delivery services, as well as online and in-store shopping that will help people take advantage of school supply-related savings on the sales-tax-free weekend.

The Cato Fashions clothing store in Lampasas also anticipates a big turnout of shoppers this year.

Regardless of whether people have school-age children, they still may take advantage of the tax savings on all eligible items, including many clothing items wholly unrelated to schools, such as uniforms and costumes.

More details, including lists of eligible items, are on the Texas comptroller's website.



MONIQUE BRAND | DISPATCH RECORD

Cato Fashions Assistant Manager Reanna Hamilton-Flores, who also is a part-time sales associate, prepares the store for shoppers Wednesday morning.

## Lampasas officials approve emergency roof repair at police station

BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

It's been close to 20 years since the Lampasas Police Department's roof has seen some care, according to City Secretary Becky Sims, and officials said an emergency repair is needed.

The building on East Fourth Street experienced substantial damage from hail and this year's winter storm, according to Sims.

"The police department was having some issues with a leak inside their building, and so they went several avenues," Sims told the Lampasas City Council

during a meeting last week.

"They went mechanical, plumbing, to see exactly where the leak came from," she said. "So, during this type of assessment, they decided to get a roof assessment, as well, to try to see if the roof was

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### WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Aug. 1	90	73	0
Aug. 2	83	72	0.06
Aug. 3	87	68	0
Aug. 4	88	68	0

Total rainfall for 2021: 19.97 in.

Data from the Lower Colorado River Authority (site 11 miles west-northwest of Lampasas, near Nix).

### BRIEFLY

#### SCHOOL BOARD

The Lampasas Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet Monday at 6 p.m. in the district's administration building, located at 207 W. Eighth St.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing regarding a takings impact assessment on the proposed subdivision

regulations. The meeting will be Aug. 23 at 9 a.m. in the courthouse.

#### JURY TRIAL CANCELED

Lampasas County District Clerk Edith Harrison has announced that the jury trial planned for Aug. 16 in 27<sup>th</sup> District Court has been canceled.

Those who had been summoned for jury duty will not need to report on that date.

#### BROADBAND SURVEY

Lampasas County is participating in a survey to help improve broadband availability and internet connectivity.

Community members are encouraged to complete the survey before Aug. 26.

Visit <https://myconnectedcommunity.org/lampasas-county/> to complete the approximately 10-minute survey.

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