

A million-plus for Aptos Fire

A \$1.3 million budget was approved Tuesday night for the Aptos Fire Department, but the department faces cuts if county and state tax money falls short of expected levels.

The \$1,304,649 budget, approved unanimously by the district's board of directors, is \$68,240 higher than last fiscal year's and includes a 10 percent pay hike for the firemen.

Fire Chief Nick Baumgartner said Wednesday that the district now expects to receive all, or nearly all, of the property tax money and state augmentation money forecast by Auditor-Controller Art Merrill, but added that the district will have to cut the operating budget if income is not sufficient.

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