

King William County Government - you have a SPENDING ADDICTION! It's time for an INTERVENTION!

KW's Actual 2013-14 Budget \$56,576,664

KW's Proposed 2014-15 Budget \$62,557,348 -- a 10.5%
increase totaling nearly **SIX MILLION DOLLARS !**

(And will there be another \$2 million in Supplemental Expenditures -- taken
from reserves and/or new borrowing -- like last year ?)

KW's Median Household Income in 2010 \$64,982

KW's Median Household Income in 2011 \$57,779 -- a decrease that continues today
(Sources: Latest figures available from US Census and UVA's Weldon Cooper Center)



EMPIRE BUILDING. While the county's population stays about the same
as the economy shrinks, businesses cut back or close, and average household
earnings drop, KW County is expanding in:

1. Administration
2. Schools
3. Law Enforcement

But kicking the 2015 budget can down the road will make next year and the next even worse !



- * New employees mean more money that's required
for salary, insurance, retirement system, etc.
- * Paying interest on the county's current \$28.5 million
debt will grow next year. And it's likely that they'll
need to borrow even more.
- * New residential real estate assessments are ex-
pected to be lower in today's depressed economy.
This means less tax revenue if the rates stay the
same. Think they're going to want to raise the rate
next year?
- * Necessary, long overdue maintenance, repairs, im-
provements, and purchases have been pushed to fis-
cal year 2016. But we know this makes no more
sense than avoiding changing the oil in our cars.
Taking \$1.2 million in Reserve Funds is helping a bit
now but where will next year's reserve come from?

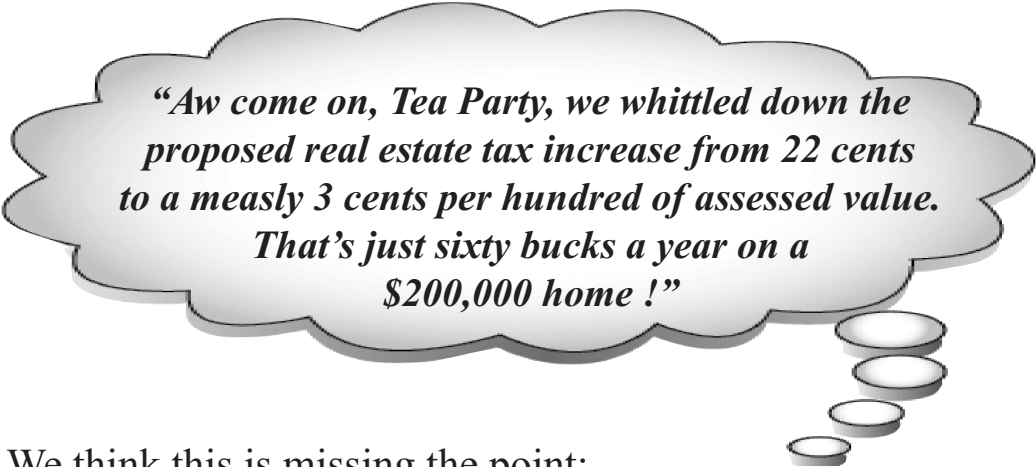
So, what are the details and what is KWTP's solution ? See page 2 ➡

EMPIRE BUILDING ? WE REPORT, YOU DECIDE.

- 1. **County Administration** (County Administrator’s salary \$101,745 plus benefits). Staffing has increased even though the population hasn’t. In one example, the recently hired Finance Manager with three helpers in his office sought to justify hiring yet another new employee as someone who will “*be assisting with BPOL (Business, Professional, and Occupational License) tax, Food and Beverage tax and Assessments.*” (County Budget Meeting, 29 Mar 14)

Excuse us, but doesn’t this unnecessarily duplicate what’s already being done by the Commissioner of Revenue and the Treasurer?
And there’s a proposed raise for all county employees in the new budget, even though private sector wages in King William continue to fall. How many of us have gotten a raise in the last several years ?
- 2. **County Schools** (School Superintendent’s salary \$128,466 plus benefits). Staffing is currently at the remarkably favorable ratio of 1 employee for every 5.8 students. And this is even after some modest cuts in previous years and no meaningful increase in enrollment. But our School Superintendent wants more. “*We’ve made some really tough choices over the last four years. We’re at a point now where we have to replace what is needed most.*” (Tidewater Review, 26 Feb 14)
- 3. The **Sheriff’s Office** (Sheriff’s salary \$86,938 plus benefits) seems to be doing OK with current levels of funding in our rural, low crime county. But here’s a puzzling example of “justification” for an additional deputy that came when a Federal grant was dangled to pay the salary of a School Resource Officer.

We asked how many incidents last year resulted in an arrest. “*Well, none...*” was the reluctant answer.
Oh, and never mind that the county would have to pay all the other expenses for that deputy including training, uniforms and equipment, retirement, and another patrol car. (County Budget Meeting, 29 Mar 14)



We think this is missing the point:

WE’RE TAXED ENOUGH ALREADY AND UNLESS SPENDING IS DRASTICALLY CUT, IT’S ONLY GOING TO GET A WHOLE LOT WORSE NEXT YEAR !

County spending will continue to grow, revenues will continue to shrink and neglected necessities will still have to be dealt with.

That’s kicking the can down the road. But don’t just take our word for it. Here’s what 4th District (Manquin) Supervisor Terry Stone recently said, “*We’re trying to catch up 20 years worth. [There’s] the 911 system that if it goes down we won’t know where people live. A radio system that should have been replaced 10 years ago. A telephone system that does not work. Lawn mowers that do not work. Does anything work ?*” (Tidewater Review, 2 Apr 14)

Don’t fall into the cynical political trap when they demand that we dig out specific items to cut from 482 pages of the “2015 Budget Requests” (available online at kingwilliamcounty.us/departments-and-services/finance/budget/)
That’s the job we’re paying our elected Supervisors to do. Tell ’em they have to make the hard choices to CUT SPENDING and CUT TAXES !

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** They’re all listed on the county’s website www.kingwilliam-county.us along with plenty of useful and often surprising information on Government, Departments & Services, Economic Development, News and Announcements.*

See the latest proposed Budget for 2015 (all 135 pages) at kingwilliamcounty.us/departments-and-services/finance/budget/
By the time the **formally scheduled Public Hearing** rolls around at **7 PM on Monday, April 21st** at the County Administration Building, it’s still not too late to stop any mischief before their final vote on Budget, Tax Levies and Appropriations, scheduled for April 28th.
SPENDING -- AND THE TAXES THAT FEED IT -- MUST BE CUT !
SHOW UP -- STAND UP -- SPEAK UP
OR GET READY TO HAVE YOUR POCKETS PICKED AGAIN THIS YEAR AND MORE NEXT YEAR !

April 21st !

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