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\$3,239,000 Local Grants-In-Aid

To what extent has Colorado County been sharing in the billions of dollars of Federal funds that are distributed annually by the government through grant-in-aid?

Of the \$48.2 billion handed out by Washington in the past fiscal year, including \$6.1 billion in revenue sharing grants, how much reached the local area?

On the basis of Treasury Department figures and a state-by-state analysis of them made by the Tax Foundation, a non-profit organization that keeps track of government taxation and spending, Colorado County

received a relatively small share.

An estimated \$3,239,000 was earmarked for local purposes during the year under a variety of aid programs.

Throughout the State of Texas as a whole, the grants totaled \$2,198,000,000, the Tax Foundation reports.

They were awarded for such needs as education, welfare, health, job training, urban renewal, food stamps, road construction and the like.

The amounts, it is explained, represent only grants-in-aid and revenue sharing and do not include general

Mayor Reports Status Of City At Rotary Meet

Mayor Elmer Struss was the speaker at the meeting of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club on Wednesday of last week and he presented a "state of the city" address. Oscar Miller was program chairman and introduced the mayor.

Mayor Struss reviewed the utility rate changes which will be reflected in the June billing which will come out around July 1st. He commented that the city had forecasted these increases for many years, but due to rising costs, due to inflation, it is now impossible to operate the services without an increase.

He noted that while the increases are substantial, they will enable the city to operate without a loss, but if inflation continues, another rate may be necessary in future years.

The mayor also stressed that the city needs the revenue sharing proceeds in order to continue its work of providing services to the citizens of the community. He said that it has been the practice of the council to use the funds for capital outlay only and not for services, so that when and if the funds are cut off, as they appear they may be at the end of this year, the citizens of the community would not find services curtailed due to the lack of additional funds.

Among the projects completed with the use of revenue sharing funds were the erection of a new fire station, purchase of a street sweeper, a sewer cleaner, extension of the ball field, and others.

Federal Funds

The mayor also discussed the city's applications for use of federal funds for local projects. He noted that the city is in stage one of an application for a 75-25 participation (the city providing the 25%) for an Environmental Protection A-

\$625.18 Raised Here For Mental Health

Eagle Lake raised \$625.18 in the May drive benefiting the Texas Association for Mental Health.

Bellinger workers collected house-to-house during May, Mental Health Month. Proceeds benefit the non-profit organization whose members are dedicated to fighting mental illness through education, while working on behalf of the emotionally disturbed and their families.

Association President Carroll B. Bryant thanked Mrs. Coby Shorter, Jr. and the Bellinger workers in Eagle Lake, calling them "Citizens Who Do Make A Difference".

Bond Issue Probable

"It looks like I'm going to have to come before you some time late next year on a proposal of issuing bonds for the construction costs," said the mayor. He noted that the city has some \$60,000 in revenue sharing funds for the city to meet its share of the construction costs, but he explained, under present law, the city is prohibited from using federal revenue sharing funds for its participation in another federally funded project. "We hope that this law will be changed, but right now it's rather doubtful," explained the mayor.

Also he reported that the city is very near on its project to obtain an outright grant for \$97,000 from the federally-funded Community Block program under HUD for the construction of sewer lines to the only areas of the city where sewer service is not now offered, along west Main Street, Austin Road, and the Hubbard Ferry Road. It is hoped that this will be made available for this project by the end of this year.

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