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(Neb)-Chadron Council Talks Long-And-Short-Term Budget Needs  [Listen](#)



By: John Axtell Posted at: 04/20/2017 12:45 PM

**CHADRON** - After spending more than 3 hours Monday night in regular session, the Chadron City Council met last night for another 2-1/2 hours in a budget planning workshop.

Mayor John Coates says last night's session had council members and city staff discuss needs and desires that might affect either this year's budget or those in the future.

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Coates says last night's meeting offered a combination of reassurances on the city's financial health and early warnings on projects or changes that may be needed over the next few years.

Among the unexpected items were the need for the fire department to make its periodic replacement of breathing equipment for around \$250,000 and to replace the four air conditioning units at the library...which hopes to begin a major addition in the coming years.

Library director Rosella Tesh said near the end that based on the various needs she heard, it will likely be at least 10 years before the library expansion begins, so something will almost certainly need on the air conditioning before then.

Each of the 40-plus year-old units will cost about \$30,000 to replace, but Tesh had to spend \$5,000 last summer just to repair one of them.

Coates says the council will now take a break from the budget for a couple months to give Interim City Manager Donna Rust and the department heads a chance to develop firmer proposals before resuming workshops in July.