

# \$196M spending plan OK'd

## Outagamie says yes to airport, UWFV projects

By Susan Squires  
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APPLETON — A \$7.2 million airport parking project and \$5.3 million for a communications center at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley survived efforts to cut them from Outagamie County's 2007 budget Monday.

In a 31-3 vote, the County Board approved a \$196 million budget, including a property tax levy of \$52.49 million Monday, with supervisors Pat Stevens and Marv Samson absent. Dissenters were Supvs. Charlie Kramer, Chuck Schmidt and Jim Steineke.

The levy is a 4.07 percent increase from 2006. New construction and inflation added 6.25 percent, or \$690 million to property value. Property owners will pay \$4.47 per \$1,000 of property value in taxes, compared with \$4.57 in 2006.

The board debated the airport parking project for nearly an hour. The plan, which the board nixed for 2006, will add about 1,370 stalls, nearly doubling Outagamie County Regional Airport's parking capacity.

Opponents, citing stagnant passenger boardings, suggested scaling back or phasing in the project.

Backers invoked the specter of Wittman Regional Airport's decline.

### On the Web

Outagamie County:  
[www.co.outagamie.wi.us](http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us)

Commercial passenger at the Winnebago County airport ceased in 2003. The vote was 16 for deleting the project, 18 for pursuing it in 2007. The construction won't affect the tax levy.

Similarly, proponents predicted disaster if UWFV doesn't build a new auditorium. The current building is 45 years old, and doesn't comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"Anybody with a physical disability could walk in there and shut that place down tight," Supv. Wayne Defferding warned. Supv. Dick Gosse called it a "fire trap."

The board retained the project in a 22-12 vote. Winnebago County, which co-owns the campus with Outagamie County, also will have to put in \$5.3 million.

The budget also takes the landfill tipping fee from \$21 a ton to \$23 a ton. Supv. Bill Errington, who chairs the county's solid waste committee, promised to revisit the fee next year.

"If we don't need it, it will be lowered again," Errington said.

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PostCrescent

Nov. 7, 2006

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