NAPOLEONVILLE — The time has come for Assumption Parish police jurors to make “drastic decisions” concerning budget woes facing the jury, President Joe Harrison Jr. said Wednesday night.

Harrison called a special finance meeting for 6 p.m. Oct. 29 to discuss the 1987 budget. The jury is considering asking department heads to reduce their budgets by 25 percent, he said.

Declining revenues and cuts in state and federal funding have left the jury with an $896,000 deficit for this year, Harrison said.

The jury was notified this week that it will lose $120,000 in anticipated severance tax receipts for the fourth quarter, he said. The loss in severance tax revenue was “unexpected,” he said.

The parish budget is seeing “weekly amendments” in order to make up the deficit, Harrison said.

Jurors budgeted $4.6 million. However, expenses have pushed the budget up to $5.7 million for the year, he said.

The jury was forced earlier this year to cut most departments by 10 percent and to reduce the number of hours employees work in an effort to make up unanticipated revenue losses.

Harrison said he will meet with all department heads before the special meeting in order to discuss what can be done to reduce the deficit.

In a related matter, jurors voted to ask the Council on Aging to deliver books to senior citizens who are not able to drive to the library.

The action came in response to a letter printed in an area newspaper in which a senior citizen said the cancellation of the book mobile service is creating a problem for senior citizens who do not have transportation.

Harrison said the recent cuts forced the library to cancel the book mobile service. “The service is not a necessity” but some residents “have grown to depend on it,” he said.

In other action, the jury voted to pay South Central Bell $20,146 for the relocation of cable at the new Bayou Pierre Part Bridge.

Jury Secretary-Treasurer Steve Fertitta explained that the jury is responsible for the cost of the cable relocation because of the agreement that was signed in order to get the $1.5 million in state and federal funds needed to construct the new bridge.