Acadia School Board anxious over tax decrease

CROWLEY (LSN) — A loss of $23,000 in motor vehicles sales along with a drop in oil-company sales and farm equipment sales. Acadia Parish sales tax collections for June of this year were down $35,517.42 compared to the same period last year; according to figures released Monday night at the school board meeting.

"It is not a very pleasant sight," said Acadia Parish superintendent of schools, Dr. Jim Griffin. "The thing that concerns me the most is that I don't think it has bottomed out yet. It is not a very pretty picture."

The June figures show a 14.50 percent drop over those of last June while the year-to-date figures show a decrease of $87,996.72, or an 11.96 percent decrease. The 1984-85 fiscal year showed an increase of 5.7 percent, or $178,557.18 over the 1983-84 collections.

The ever-present problem with utility costs at Crowley High School surfaced again Monday night and the board voted to accept a low bid of $12,365 from Honeywell, Inc., for a preventative maintenance program in hopes to lower utility costs.

The program would include monthly inspections on utility consumptions and to fine-tune the equipment. The three purposes of the plan are to extend the life of the equipment, to minimize repair and to minimize consumption repair. Honeywell will make 10 inspections through the month of August through May.

Crowley High utility costs were $51,000 in 1983, $38,000 in '84 and rose again to $25,000 in '85, for an average cost of about $31,000 a year.

In another effort to lower utility costs at the school, the board voted to install a separate air conditioning unit over the administrative complex, accepting a low bid of $4,345 from Venable Air Conditioning.

The chairman of the board's Executive Committee, Grant Link, said the committee was convinced that the two changes would result in a considerable saving, a power cost for the upcoming year.

"The heating and cooling at Crowley High has taken up more time than any other expense we've had to deal with," Link said. "We have been working real hard the last couple of years to cut down on the amount of time we use and the cost of repairs on the systems and I feel it will start to pay off."

Also, in an effort to improve the driveways and parking lots at four parish schools, the board approved a bid from contractor Bob Manuel calling for a $75-a-ton patching project.

The four schools are Crowley High, Church Point, Rayne and Iota.

The $75-per-ton costs includes the asphalt, machinery and labor. Church Point showed the biggest need, about 80 tons, while Rayne was expected to need 70, Crowley High 40, Iota 15 and Church Point 10.