

# Which services could we do without?

If Lee County's commissioners decide against a tax increase next year, they will have to cut a \$60 million spending deficit from a \$375 million general operating budget. But where to cut? The News-Press examined what the county must provide under state law versus what government could legally do without.

<b>Core services</b>	COUNTY	COST	COST TO A \$150K HOME
<b>Sheriff's office</b>	Lee	\$153 million	\$423
	Collier	\$136 million	\$330
<b>Medicaid</b>	Lee	\$5.8 million	\$16
	Collier	\$2.1 million	\$5
<b>Trash and recycling pickup</b>	Lee	\$61.7 million	\$208 (cost per family)
	Collier	\$50.4 million	\$174
<b>Property appraiser</b>	Lee	\$8.6 million	\$23
	Collier	\$6.6 million	\$16
<b>Optional spending</b>			
<b>Library</b>	Lee	\$24 million	\$51
	Collier	\$7.2 million	\$17
<b>Social spending*</b>	Lee	\$12 million	\$32
	Collier	\$4.5 million	\$11
<b>Animal Services</b>	Lee	\$3.8 million	\$10
	Collier	\$2.8 million	\$7
<b>Parks</b>	Lee	\$31 million	\$85
	Collier	\$22.6 million	\$55

\* substance abuse, nonprofit support, mental health