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Cost of emergency services may be going up again in Pinellas



Pinellas County Administrator Bob LaSala told the Tampa Bay Times that unless there are changes to the system or costs are cut, county commissioners will have to consider asking the Legislature to increase the limit on the EMS tax rate.

Last Updated: Monday, April 23, 2012



PINELLAS COUNTY -- Pinellas County Commissioners may soon have to find a way to fund another jump in the cost of emergency services.

County commissioners hiked the emergency medical services tax rate by 46 percent a little more than six months ago, but according to **Bay News 9's** partner newspaper the *Tampa Bay Times*, Pinellas County Administrator Bob LaSala says he plans to ask for another increase.

"Based on our financial forecast and the decline in property tax revenue ... there will not be enough revenue to support the expenditures," LaSala told the *Times*.

That wouldn't necessarily mean an immediate tax increase for county residents. Four of the seven commissioners are running for re-election, and there are other options for finding additional funding.

Commissioner Ken Welch, one of those up for re-election, told the *Times* tapping into reserves is an option.

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