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New Web site lets Texans see where tax money goes

Updated: 7/8/2008 8:38:59 PM

By: Catie Beck

It's designed as a watchdog Web site and it's brand new.

Creators said it will inspire citizens to speak out about the state's overspending.

Texas Public Policy Foundation's Talmadge Heflin broke down the numbers.

"The state of Texas spends approximately \$2,600 per second, \$230 million a day," he said.



This site connects users to information that's already public.

A new Web site, [Texas Budget Source.com](http://TexasBudgetSource.com), has some answers as to where the money goes.

"It's an open book look at where your tax money is going," Heflin said.

Only it was a book that didn't have to be written. The site connects users to information that's already public.

It's information about state, city and even school district spending. In many cases, you can get gritty details, like seeing what Lago Vista school district spent money on every day in the month of May.

It's no surprise the site was formed from the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative research institute. They hope the measure will correct inefficient spending.

They said people want to know why taxes keep going up.

"I think that question itself will cause people to look and see well, what is it that the city is spending the money on," Heflin said.

Salaries are another point of interest. Heflin said many would be surprised at how much some on local government levels are getting paid, bringing more questions to the forefront.

Heflin asked: "What do these people do? Do we need so many high level people? Can we do with less?"

The purpose of the new site is to answer some questions, while inspiring people to ask even more.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation launched the new website Tuesday. It will update the site as more information becomes accessible online.



Texas Public Policy Foundation created the Web site.



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