

Hawkins Sales Tax returns: March

Sales tax up 31 percent;

Year-to-date up 12 percent

By JOHN SPARKS

Sales tax returns for the City of Hawkins in March 2011 saw an increase of 31.63 percent for the month compared with March 2010. All six of the county's municipalities had positive returns in March compared with the same month a year ago. Collections from businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county also showed improvement.

The sales tax funds are collected by local merchants, sent to the Texas Comptroller along with the state's six and-a-quarter cents tax on each dollar of retail purchase. Hawkins' local portion—one-and-one-half cents/dollar—is then returned two months later (January retailer collections returned in March). Merchants in the unincorporated county areas collect a half-cent sales tax on each dollar sale with the local portion going into the county's general fund.

March's receipts of \$20,261.58 for the City of Hawkins are distributed to the two budgets supported by the sales tax, with approximately \$13,597.72 deposited into the city's general fund and the remaining \$6,753.88, representing a half-cent sales tax, into the Hawkins Community Development Corporation budget.

Comparative figures for sales tax returns for the month of March (as collected in January) for each city and the county follow with commentary furnished by Gary McKinley, executive director of the Wood County Industrial Commission: