

SENATOR LYNCH: ...before Richardson County even got into their problems with the floods and with the defense of some of the felons. But in any case, think about the other things that involve equity as well. That is all I ask. Thanks.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Hall.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, if I may, let me ask you a couple of questions, and let me tell you what I want to get clear in my mind, and perhaps it is clear in everybody else's mind, but I don't think we've had a little review of this, and I think it would be worthwhile.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And that is this question. Let's take a hypothetical county and say they did their budget in, what is it, August, September, thereabouts, they set the budget.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: They planning their budget throughout the summer, present it sometime late August, and the levies will get set in September, right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and then some wild man serves up a Christmas present for the county by murdering somebody in December, okay.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So now the proceedings move fairly rapidly, and in the winter and in the spring costs are accumulating fairly quickly. The county sees that it has not budgeted sufficiently for indigent defenses. Now it faces a couple of problems. First of all, it has a budget in place that has a lid limitation on it. Is that correct?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And I don't remember exactly what it is, but it can go up to the CPI, and then if you want to go to 5 percent, you have to have an affirmative vote of three-quarters or something like that, I believe.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Majority vote.