



[Marc Blaine](#), KESQ News Channel 3 Anchor & Reporter, mblaine@kesq.com

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Desert Hot Springs council members considering employee salary cuts

Cuts needed to help close \$4 million budget deficit



DESERT HOT SPRINGS, Calif. -

Desert Hot Springs interim city manager Bob Adams is recommending a dramatic cut in employees salaries as the city tries to close a \$4 million budget deficit.

City council members Thursday night will consider slashing most salaries by 22.5 percent for a \$2 million savings.

The recommendation comes after the city declared a financial emergency in an effort to avoid bankruptcy.

If the salary cuts are approved, the city can remain solvent through June before dealing with further cuts to completely close the \$4 million dollar gap.

"Unless somebody wants to put this city in bankruptcy, they're gonna have to vote for these cuts as unfortunate as it is and however hard it is on city employees, these cuts must be made," said Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts.

With salary cuts on the horizon, last week police chief Kate Singer and another high ranking police official announced their retirements.

According to the state controller's office, last year the average annual salary for Desert Hot Springs employees was more than \$75,500.