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DHS lays off 2 city workers; third job threatened

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Administrative employees cut; budget woes cited

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DESERT HOT SPRINGS - Anticipated state budget cuts have forced this city to lay off two employees and threaten the job of a third person, the city manager said Monday.

Tracy Fuller, director of administrative services, and Cindy Scott, executive administrative assistant and assistant deputy city clerk, were laid off.

City Manager Jerry Hanson would not comment about the third layoff, which is expected sometime this week.

"I feel bad about it," Hanson said. "I'm sorry that Tracy is gone; I'm sorry that Cindy is gone."

Hanson cited budgetary concerns as the reason for the layoffs but gave no specific dollar amounts as to how much the city would save.

Councilwoman Mary Stephens said Hanson told her Monday the duties performed by Fuller and Scott now would be handled by other employees.

Councilman Gary Bosworth said Hanson informed the council Monday after announcing the layoffs during a closed session that he planned on hiring replacements for the positions at lower salaries.

When reached by telephone Monday night, Fuller said she had no comments regarding her layoff. Attempts to reach Scott were unsuccessful.

Fuller, who has been with the city for nearly a year and a half, originally had served as the city's finance director.

She was hired by former City Manager Joe Guzzetta to help stabilize the city during bankruptcy proceedings. Guzzetta was fired back in November 2002 because of what was cited as poor job performance.

As director of administrative services, Fuller oversaw finance personnel, the city's payroll group and records management. She also did some work with the city's redevelopment agency, Hanson said.

Bosworth said Scott had been with the city for at least eight years - she was there prior to his arrival.

"She has the best institutional memory at City Hall," Bosworth said. He added that institutional memory is essential to run an organization.

"This was all budgetary," Stephens said Monday. "We don't have a whole lot of money."