

Efficiency firm's tips helping GJ

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The city of Grand Junction has implemented the easy efficiency recommendations from a Boulder consulting firm and is now in the process of looking at recommended personnel cuts, City Manager Mark Achen said this morning.

"We're experimenting where they said to look at personnel changes. We're experimenting where we're not certain whether we feel as confident in their recommendations about staff levels as they do," Achen said. "It will really be a budget issue when we go through the 1986 budget."

The Boulder firm, PMI, looked at municipal court, police records, finance, the city clerk's office and personnel during about a 10-week period ending in mid-May, Achen said.

There were no specific recommendations for staff reductions in the personnel and city clerk's offices, Achen said. However, consultants recommended abolishing two to three positions in finance, one or more in municipal court, and one to two positions in police records.

With one resignation in the municipal court, that position hasn't been refilled, and the city is evalu-

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ating a new microcomputer program to expedite the work, Achen said.

In the finance department, some people are now assigned to special projects, taking them out of routine paperwork procedures, so that the city can determine how well the normal paper flow progresses without them, Achen said.

Police records has a new administrator, Ron Sommerhause, who is still reviewing the staff-cutting recommendations there, Achen said.

"I indicated we were not intending to go through the process and then lay people off," said Achen. "Where vacancies occur, and we can shift people around, and where their recommendations make sense to us, we will do that."

"We might have to make some hard decisions, but, as much as possible, it will be by change of labor or reduction by attrition," said Achen.

Since the field team left Grand Junction, members have continued to communicate weekly with each department and track down what is being accomplished, said Achen. "It appealed to us that they made recommendations and are continuing to assist us to put them into practice," he said. "It's one thing to say we can do the work a lot differently, and another to actually do it."

"They made a whole host of recommendations, the majority of which we have implemented," he said, noting that some are as simple as suggesting a change of color in certain cards used by the city.