

Fire department to receive money

Bird City Rural Fire Department is among six fire departments receiving \$45,600 for fire operations and safety.

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts announced over \$806,200 in six grants were awarded to Kansas firefighters to improve homeland security.

"I am pleased to announce these funds, which are vital to improve firefighting efforts and first responder needs in rural Kansas," Senator Roberts said. "It's imperative to support our local fire departments."

Others receiving grants were:

- Shawnee County Fire District 2 in Auburn: \$45,600.
- Derby Fire and Rescue Department: \$32,947.
- Sherman Township Fire District in Farlington: \$36,290.
- Anderson County Rural Fire Department in Garnett: \$155,800.
- Olathe Fire Department: \$490,000.

The funds were awarded by the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under the United States Department of Homeland Security. The program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States.



POURING CONCRETE — Work is nearing completion at the new location for Western State Bank in St. Francis. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Commissioners table several requests

By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Friday was short with few decisions made and several requests for purchases, which were tabled until more information was available.

Jennifer Padgett, communications director, had talked to the commissioners several months ago about purchasing a new dispatch console. She was unable to be present at the Friday meeting but asked the commissioners to consider the purchase. The console costs \$22,861 however, she has a grant for \$13,260. That would leave a difference of less than \$10,000 for the county to pay. The money would come from 911 funds but there has been talk in the state legislature about allowing counties to have that money which is a telephone tax charged to customers.

The commissioners agreed that they wanted more information on possibly repairing the console before buying a new one.

Another request came from the St. Francis Fire Chief, George Harper, who had talked to Andy Beikman, commissioner, about purchasing a truck cab and chassis, then putting a 3,000-gallon water tank on it.

The chief was asked to get bids and the commissioners will revisit the tanker truck at another meeting.

Work on county road curve

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the Kansas Department of Transportation had sent an agreement to help with the county's project to redo the dangerous corner southwest of town. The agreement, he said, states the corner is 13 miles

west and 11 miles south of Saint Francis.

In November 2006, a Burlington man, Brett Files, was killed when he took his four wheeler on the road and failed to make the corner. In April 2007, Raymond Armknecht, St. Francis, offered the land to change the lay of the curve.

He said there had been several wrecks but no one had been killed before Mr. Files. "I don't want to come out there someday and find someone who has been killed or seriously injured," Mr. Armknecht said. "That why I am donating the land to have that curve changed."

Work will start on changing the curve in the near future

Illegal landfill site cleanup

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, discussed the consent agreement that had been reached with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment after the county landfill had been fined for not enough coverage of trash. The county road and bridge crew will clean up the solid waste from an illegal landfill site located in a ravine in the county but the location of the ravine was not revealed.

The work must be finished within 45 days after signing the agreement. The agreement had been signed and work had begun.

Attorney Gilliland said she was researching state sanitary codes and talking to other county attorneys to see what they are doing about those people having nuisance property. She is also researching a sanitary code which the county will have to adopt and get approved by the department of health and environment. After this procedure, the county com-

missioners can then proceed with a letter to Doug Austin regarding the clean up of his lot located on east U.S. 36, St. Francis.

Support signed for tax credit

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, said the state was allowing the Tax Credit Program again this year. The program returns the tax dollars directly back to the county and is a benefit to everyone participating.

He said the hospital and clinic has taken advantage of this program three times in the past. He plans to ask for \$300,000 in credits so the hospital can purchase a new 16-slice CT scanner. Currently the hospital is using a single slice scanner.

The new scanner, he said, will use less radiation and scan at a much faster pace.

The commissioners signed a letter of support for the hospital to apply for the tax credit program.

In other business

In other business:

- Dolores Jenik, county treasurer, said she would need to make a decision on the person to replace Marge Peter before the next meeting. The commissioners gave her permission to make the decision.

- Mr. Flemming was approved to attend a Road Safety Assessment meeting in Colby and the Kansas County Highway Association Spring Conference in Hutchinson.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting is set for Friday, May 14, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

— CheyCoDeveloping —

By Chuck Kribs, co-coordinator Cheyenne County Development Corporation

You can get the neatest cell phones at the NAPA store, beautiful bananas from Honduras at Hilltop Market and flowers for any occasion at Prairie Rose. More reasons to shop Cheyenne County FIRST!

Lots of good things happening! Captain Hook's is back open, Lavelle Carpenter is serving up those good breakfasts at Majestic Service, and the St. Francis Senior Center has a new stove!

A big thanks to the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce for putting together funding to complete the travel video featuring "The Breaks" and other Cheyenne County high lights.

We mentioned in the last col-

umn that a proposed hi-voltage power line would soon provoke a renewed interest in wind energy. That seems to be happening as the Commissioners and Cheyenne County Development have been contacted regarding "wind farms." I have seen a map of the tentative routing of this power line, and we will be following that activity closely, to push for a route close to the county.

Retail merchants will be getting a letter and a phone call from the Cheyenne County Development shortly to set up a work session to define what we all need to do to further promote existing local business.

The Car Show is this weekend and I'll be driving the people mover. Hope to see you — It's a GREAT car show!

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