

County signs contract for new Kanorado fire truck

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 Interest rates are heading back up, so to keep the cost of a new rural fire truck as low as possible, Sherman County commissioners Friday approved a contract with a 4.5 percent rate though the truck is still on order.
 Randy Schoenthaler of People's State Bank said he was bringing the contract to the county now rather than waiting until the fire truck is delivered later in the fall.
 He said the interest rate of 4.5 percent was good until the end of the July, but it would go up by at least a quarter percent in August.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about the difference in cost if the county waited. Schoenthaler said the loan would certainly have a higher interest cost if they waited until the truck is delivered in the fall.
 The fire truck, to be placed in Kanorado, is to cost \$132,550. The contract calls for the first payment of \$28,899 to be made up front to reduce interest, and then there would be four annual payments.
 Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he had talked to Schoenthaler about the plan.
 The commissioners approved the contract unanimously.
 The truck is to be delivered to

Dan Brenner Ford in September and then be taken to Hays for the fire equipment installation.
 In other business Friday, commissioners:
 • Approved a purchase request by Crystal Wright, county computer supervisor, for six Dell flat screen computer monitors from S&T Communications at a cost of \$2,910 total, plus new computers for the county clerk and a new computer for the treasurer's office at a cost of \$1,355 each.
 The two will replace old state computers which have become obsolete, and the state has shown no interest in replacing them, Wright said.

• Wright said an update of the county's IBM computer will be done the week of Aug. 14. She asked permission to transfer the maintenance agreement from the older computer to the new one. The commissioners approved.
 • County Treasurer Shelby Miller asked to purchase new five office chairs. She said the ones in the office are about 20 years old, and she had bids from Topside Office Supply of \$88.79 per chair and from High Plains Office of \$87.50. The commissioners told Miller it was her choice.
 • The commissioners approved a 10-cent-per-hour raise for rural Fire

Chief Kenny Griffith, who works on the road crew, because he has completed the household hazardous waste certification program. Commissioner Tiede said the agreement was this raise would be given when he completed the training, which he did in May, and that it should be retroactively to June 1. The raise was approved unanimously, bringing him to \$12.60 an hour. The commissioners gave him a 35-cent-per-hour raise in November for taking over the program retroactive to Aug. 18. He received a raise of 26 cents in January along with other county employees.
 • County Attorney Bonnie Selby showed the commissioners a letter she was asking the district judge to approve dealing with prisoner medical expenses. She said the request is

that the judge allow the county to attempt to collect for medical expenses if the prisoner has insurance or to reimburse the county for the expenses. She will ask the judge at their first appearance.
 • Held a closed session with Selby for 10 minutes to discuss her travel expenses. When the commissioners returned to open session, they approved payment of \$1,518 for the county attorney's expenses for a Kansas Trial Lawyers Association meeting in Ridgedale, Mo., on June 10-11. The commissioners discussed creating a county policy on travel expenses and plan to look at some options at the next meeting.
 The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Friday to canvass the election. Their next regular meeting will be 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 10.

Sewer cleanup at Good Sam to begin Friday

CLEANUP, from Page 1
 wings of the building, and the area near the nurses station, where the concentration is the highest because that is close to the leak.
 "We need to do what is best for our residents," Reeser said.
 Reeser said Monday there may be a change in companies handling the sewage cleanup because they were not able to reach a satisfactory agreement with Medallion.
 "We are having a second company look at this," Reeser said, "and we should know more by Wednesday. The new company said they can begin cleanup by Friday and it should take about two to three

weeks total.
 "I will be calling the commissioners today to let them know about the possible change."
 He said his crew was continuing the changing of the filters and cleaning the swamp coolers.
 He asked the commissioners to consider paying half the cost of the cleanup, which would be \$32,500. The Hays company had asked for \$15,000 up front and Reeser said he had paid that.
 At the meeting Friday Commissioner Kevin Rasure took the contract with Medallion over to have County Attorney Bonnie Selby look at it.
 Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked how many swamp coolers

there were, and Reeser said there were 16 in resident rooms and four or five in the kitchen. He said he hopes to replace these with air conditioners next year.
 When Rasure returned, he said Selby had a question about the arbitration clause, and he had a question about the payment schedule. He said Selby wanted the arbitration clause changed to say that if the two parties cannot agree on a person to do the arbitration, the process can be taken to court.
 Rasure said he had a question about the payment schedule where the company had asked for \$15,000 up front and wanted another \$15,000 within two weeks.

"We need a better work schedule," Rasure said, "and we can't have this drag out longer than needed if there is a problem."
 Commissioners agreed the contract should be changed, and asked that the county and Good Samaritan each be billed for their share of the cost.
 Reeser said he would get the contract revised and show it to Selby. If she approves they can have Commission Chairman Mitch Tiede sign it.
 The county asked for separate billings on the sewer cleanup and any mold cleanup. Reeser said they have temporarily moved the nurses station to another location and that seems to have helped.

King's Cafe may handle Kanorado senior meals

MEALS, from Page 1
 cafe and avoid the agency on aging altogether. Rumble said, however, that normally money collected through a levy has certain restrictions.
 "That's where you'd have to go back to the statute," she said.
 Smith said she is still reviewing paperwork from the agency to see if she can afford to meet federal

standards and supply the meals.
 "I think I could," she said, "if they'd let me do it my way."
 She said county commissioners wanted to switch to the cafe not only to cut costs, but also to put money back into Kanorado. Meals at the cafe would give seniors a convenient meeting place, she said, and more variety.
 Tom Betz contributed to this article.

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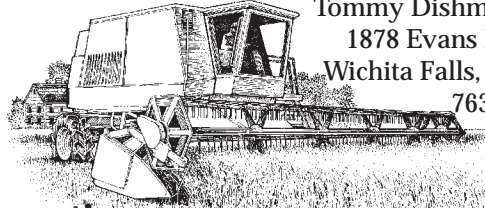
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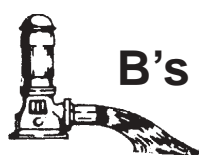
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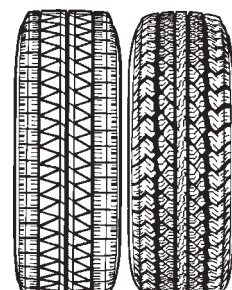


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