

New vehicle topic of discussion

By Karen Krien

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A great deal of discussion was held when the sheriff told the county commissioners, at their Friday meeting, about the need for a new vehicle. The end result was the commissioners agreed to purchase the vehicle from the federal government General Service Administration program.

Sheriff Craig Van Allen had prices for three Ford Expeditions: Yost Ford-Mercury, St. Francis, \$28,366; Brenner Ford, Goodland, \$25,687; and from a federal government program, \$23,872. The federal government program buys vehicles in bulk and can offer vehicles at a lesser price to law departments involved in drug control.

After the vehicle is shipped directly to the county at a cost of \$150, it will need to be "prepped" by a dealer. Sheriff Van Allen had bids from Yost, \$1,500 and from Brenner, \$550.

It will be between 90 and 120 days before the new vehicle arrives. The sheriff said it would cost approximately \$1,500 for lights and controls; decals will cost around \$400. The cage used for protection of the officer driving, located between the front and back seat, will be one that can be removed.

The commissioners agreed that they always try to shop locally

but, when the difference is around \$4,500, it's hard to justify spending taxpayers' money that way. They went with the government program vehicle and the prepping by Brenner Ford.

Digital service contract

Appraiser, Bruce Webb, along with bringing in his monthly budget report, encouraged the commissioners to sign the R and S Digital Services mapping contract. The mapping will cover the county but not the cities. Allied, the company which the county dealt with in the 911 installation, has been updating information in the appraiser's office. The technology is available and there is enough money in the appraiser's budget so the commissioners agreed to sign the contract which will cost no more than \$22,000.

Since the mapping will be available to other departments, the commissioners said these departments could also help with the expense. When it comes time to map the cities, the commissioners will be talking to city councils to see what they can give toward the mapping.

Mr. Webb said that, at this time, he felt the printer for the maps could wait until there is more money available.

Emergency medical service department

The commissioners approved Mike Hanson, technician, as a county representative at the Region I emergency medical service meetings. He replaces Cynthia Poling who is no longer an officer.

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, talked about the shortage of emergency medical technicians in the Bird City area. She noted that, now that the farming season has begun, there will often not be technicians available in Bird City and St. Francis will need to come. I know, she said, it will be a little longer wait but, until we have more technicians in that area, it may just have to be that way.

She said she has had to order two portable suction units for the ambulances at a cost of \$500 each. Also, the ambulances will go into Yost Ford-Mercury for inspection. The cost will be \$260 for all of the ambulances.

The commissioners approved \$3,766 in insurance adjustments

for the ambulance service.

Mrs. Bowers asked for 10 minutes executive session to discuss financial matters of a third party.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said he needs to purchase a fuel gauge to keep up with regulations. The gauge will cost over \$500.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he had a complaint about the Lawn Ridge road needing grading. Mr. Flemming said he would look into it.

In other business:

•Gary Rogers, emergency manager, needed commissioners' signatures for a proclamation. He said the county hospital will be doing an exercise in the near future. He, Jen Padgett and Scott Houtman will be attending a Graphic Information Systems training in Hoxie.

•Carol Rogers, president of High Plains Mental Health, and Ilene O'Leary, county representative, thank the commissioners for appointing them to the board. It was noted that one out of 10 will have a mental health situation. Mrs. Rogers pointed out that there are lots of new medicines out to help with mental health. Mr. Miller noted that Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. O'Leary are always in attendance at the meetings held in Hays.

• Mr. Patton had attended a meeting on wind farms. He said

the farms have been put on hold until officials know more about President Obama's stimulus funds plans. He said wind farms will come — it is just a matter of when.

•Joe Hoffman, St. Francis, was approved by the commissioners as a new member of the fair board.

• Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he had been asked about the Sunflower Extension

District which Cheyenne County is a member. Terry Miller, clerk, told him that the District is funded by a mill levy which the extension district sets. Sunflower District, Mr. Miller said, tells us how much the county owes. The question was asked if the county is paying a fair share? There was no answer to the question.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. The bids for the sale of the old emergency medical service building located on U.S. 36 will be opened.



McDonald News

By Vera Kacirek

Death notice: Word was received of the death of Dick Hoover on March 13 in Lawrence. he was the husband of Elaine Howard.

Bernard Kacirek had major surgery on Saturday at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver. He is reported doing well and will return to Atwood to the swing bed in the Rawlins County Health Center later this week.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were Friday visitors of Agnes Reeh and of Laddie Kacirek.

On Sunday, Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were dinner guests of J.J. and Lori Denny in Colby to celebrate Claire's second birthday. Later they visited Florence Horinek in Colby before returning

to Atwood to attend the mission at the Sacred Heart Church.

Doug Tongish and Mikayla and Katelyn Cody were Saturday visitors of Joan Tongish.

Last Wednesday, Karlene Atchison and Amelia Banister were visitors of Marie Holzwarth and had lunch at the St. Francis Dairy King.

DeAdre and Madeline Osborne spent from Sunday to Wednesday with grandparents, A.B. a Judy Fisher.

Ray and Marlene Johnson had an appointment with Dr. Frye in Goodland on Friday.

Morrie and Geraldine Sutton of Stratton, Neb., were Friday visitors of Ratha Lea Loker.

Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.

John D. Ferris, MD
will be at:
291 15th Street
Burlington, CO

Wednesday, April 1
&
Saturday, April 4

For information
or appointment, call
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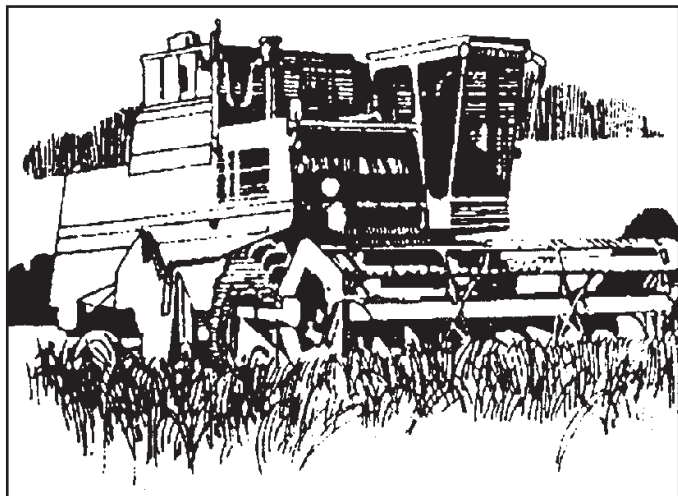
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