

County continues subsidy to control prairie dogs

By Tom Betz
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Controlling black-tail prairie dogs has become an ongoing program for Sherman County and the commissioners decided at their meeting on Friday to continue helping landowners with the cost for the poisoned bait.

The commissioners talked about the continued problem and areas of the county where the prairie dogs have shown growth over the past year. Daryl West, director of the county noxious weed and prairie dog programs, asked the commissioners what they had decided about the cost-sharing program. He said the county did a 50 percent share last year.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said that seemed like a good way to help control the problem in the county.

West said the largest prairie dog towns were in the south and the northwest.

Thomas said the northeast looks pretty good, and said Keith Coon was happy about how the prairie dogs are being controlled up there.

West said there are a few problems, and one is a landowner with a big problem who asked about the program

last year, but because of the blizzards West was unable to get to treat the area.

West said he had asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel how much money was in the budget for this year and she told him there was \$27,000 available to buy prairie dog bait. He said the bait is a restricted use product and anyone buying it has to have an applicator license.

West said the money would buy about 11 pallets of bait at \$2,500 per pallet.

Thomas asked if that is enough for the season.

West said he is sure it will take more than 11 pallets.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt the county should stay at the 50 percent cost share. He said he did not feel there were a lot of people who have as big a dog problem as there was a few years ago.

West said there is an area of about 320 acres in the northwest and another nearby that need to be treated.

He said Bob Bolen of Wallace County takes care of a landowner in the southeast. West said he makes sure he has the bait and the person pays to have the bait spread on their land.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he agreed to stay

at the 50 percent, but wanted to put a cap on the amount of money that could be spent.

It was suggested the cap be \$50,000 for the season, which runs from Oct. 15 to March 15.

Tiede said that would include the \$27,000 in the budget for this year plus additional money from next year's budget to get to the \$50,000 total.

He told West to keep the billing current to get some of the money from the landowners back in if more bait is needed.

The commissioners approved the 50 percent unanimously.

Thomas had a question about a landowner to the southeast. He said he knows they need to be taken care of, but he is not going to be able to pay for them up front.

Tiede suggested having West go down and take care of the problem.

Thomas said the landowner knows if he doesn't pay it will go on his taxes.

Rasure asked if the county could go in and bait the prairie dogs.

Tiede said they would have to send the landowner

a letter.

"He wants them out of there," Thomas said, "it is just the problem about paying for it."

The commissioners agreed to have the letter sent and have West bait the prairie dogs.

Thomas brought up a letter he received from Rod Wilkinson, who farms south of Ruleton on County Road 10, about a bindweed problem in a neighbor's field.

West said the field belongs to Pat Townsend, and said Wilkinson had called three times about the problem.

Thomas said it appeared the field had been sprayed with Torodon, and thought it looked like Townsend was planting wheat through the stubble.

West said Townsend has sprayed about 40 acres for bindweed, and that it has been sprayed twice this year by Dorman Brothers.

Rasure suggested West have Townsend write down what has been done and show Wilkinson the spraying bills, and what the future plans are to control the bindweed.

Thomas agreed it would be good to show Wilkinson evidence of what has been done.

County applies for fire truck

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkans.com

An application for a Sherman County rural fire truck was saved on Friday when the income surveys were discovered in a filing cabinet at the courthouse.

The commissioners held a hearing on the grant application for an attack brush fire truck for the Goodland rural fire station that would cost a total of \$122,950. Corina Cox from the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission of Hill City was at the commission meeting to help with the hearing and explain the steps.

The 275 surveys were of households outside the city, and had been gathered when gathered to apply for a grant for a fire truck two years ago, and Cox said they were needed for this grant or would have to be recreated.

After the hearing she and other county employees spent time looking for the stack of surveys. Before the commissioner meeting was over the stack of surveys was found in a filing cabinet in the commissioners room. With the surveys in hand she said the grant application could be ready by the Nov. 1 deadline.

She told the commissioners the cost of the fire truck is \$112,500, and the administration cost for the planning commission to handle the grant is \$10,450 for the total cost of \$122,950. The Sherman County Rural fire district would need to have 25 percent of the total for a match or \$30,738.

She said Rural Fire Chief Alan David was unable to be at the meeting, and that a request for the truck through the Federal Emergency Management Administration had been denied.

She said the fire district and county would have two years to complete the grant if it is approved through the state system. She said if approved the project would be an open bid contract, and would be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

She said the application deadline is Nov. 1, and everything has to be ready to go, and it is the same deadline for all cities and counties statewide.

The surveys are to comply with the low to moderate income requirement of the grant program she said. At the time of the hearing the county staff could not find the surveys, and she said it would be hard to get a similar survey done before the deadline.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said there was about a month, and asked if the county clerk's office could do the surveys by phone.

Cox said the original surveys were done in person by the rural firemen, but the rules have been changed to allow a survey to be done by phone or by mail. She said she could not do the surveys, but could help with the information that had to be gathered and help with the specific townships that would have to be surveyed.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said it would not be easy, but she might

be able to have her people help if it surveys could be done by phone or mail.

Rumpel said former fire chief Kenny Griffith said he gave them to the development commission office in Hill City.

Cox said the surveys were sent back to the Sherman County Clerk's office.

Rumpel said she had not seen them and that Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Snethen had been looking, but could not find them either.

She said she had a resolution the fire board has to sign to agree to maintain the truck if the county is awarded the grant money.

The commissioners agreed to approve the resolutions, interlocal agreement and administrative contract contingent on finding the surveys.

She said all the motions would be null and void if the surveys weren't found and the application would not be submitted. She said if the county didn't get the application in this year the county could reapply next year with more time to do the surveys.

A total of 322 households were surveyed two years ago, and she said getting about 80 percent return was a good number to work with.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked what low to moderate income level was for Sherman County.

She said the income figure is based on a formula and the base figure is \$29,700 or less.

Brewster tap water being cleaned

By Patty Decker
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Brewster residents could be drinking tap water today, according to a spokesperson with the Kansas Rural Water Association.

"We have drained the water tower, boosted the amount of chlorination in the water, taken six new samples from various locations in Brewster to include private homes and one well," said Doug Guenther, technical assistant for the Rural Water Association.

In the first advisory, coliform bacteria was indicated as the type of contamination; however Guenther

wanted to clarify the bacteria is not caused by organisms in the environment from human or animal feces.

"The contamination is a common coliform associated with dirt contamination and not any feces," he said Tuesday.

"We wanted to make that clear to Brewster residents," he said.

Guenther said the chlorinator system malfunctioned but is now back on line and a higher than normal level of chlorination has been run through the system.

The advisory was first issued last Friday after water samples taken on Sept. 10 came back positive for a bacteria.

At that time, residents were asked to boil water as a precaution and prevent any potential threat to people.

"The boil order will remain in effect until the samples show no contamination," Guenther said.

In the meantime, Brewster residents are being asked to respect the boil order on water used for cooking or drinking and to observe previous precautions.

"The main thing is we don't want to alarm residents that the contamination was 'fecal-related,'" Guenther said.

Questions can be made to Mayor Mike Baughn, (785) 460-4570 or Heideman, (785) 296-4363.

Sherman County Expenditures

SHERMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EXPENDITURES FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER, THIRD QUARTER AS AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE BILL 3211-1980.

SALARIES:
APPRAISER \$32,552.91; HEALTH \$46,809.32; ELECTION \$7,999.22; GENERAL \$271,053.22; NOXIOUS WEED \$12,229.37; ROAD & BRIDGE \$126,970.86; RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #1 \$9,800.00; SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK \$3,045.48; SOLID WASTE \$29,158.89; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$15,849.22
TOTAL SALARIES: \$620,704.26

EXPENDITURES:
A Helping Hand Healthmed \$595.00; Aaron Bollig \$43.86; Acme Hydraulics \$642.35; Administrative Services of Kansas \$150.00; Advance Insurance Company-Kansas \$1,013.48; Alex West \$483.18; Allied Oil & Supply \$3,962.20; Alltel \$719.77; American Boiler Services \$683.08; American Environmental Consulting LLC \$1,856.00; American Fidelity Assurance \$1,323.02; American Fidelity Assurance Co \$1,914.11; Apac-Kansas \$2,751,827.18; Aquila \$1,309.23; Audrey Engel \$39.76; Axis Capital \$1,104.00; B & B Electric \$4,841.49; B & K Pumping \$950.10; Barb Disney \$5.00; Barco Municipal Products \$953.21; Barrett Law Firm \$1,198.88; Becton Dickinson \$61.20; Best Western Red Coach Inn \$191.62; Blue Cross & Blue Shield \$153,577.30; Bob Barker Company \$991.44; Bob Bolen \$375.00; Bob Juleson \$331.09; Bowen's Refrigeration \$50.00; Brad Parker \$75.00; Burlington Radiator & Repair \$45.00; Burton Pianalto \$75.00; California Contractor Supply \$155.40; Cash-Wa Distributing \$2,271.65; Central States Wire Products \$4,001.36; Cheyenne County Clerk \$3,525.00; Chief \$856.29; City of Goodland \$41,127.14; City of Kanorado \$300.00; Colby Canvas \$127.00; Colby Free Press \$22.20; Colby Wrecking Yard \$1,623.05; Comfort Inn-Hays \$252.00; Conocophillips Fleet \$178.39; Correct Care Solutions \$35.00; Crissy Conger \$95.94; Crystal Wright \$160.96; D & D Filter Recycling & Supplies \$805.12; Dan Brenner Ford \$1,699.96; Darcy Frazier \$15.00; Darrel Cloyd \$69.09; Darrell Schrader \$65,571.45; Daryl West \$194.36; David Daniels \$165.44; Dependable Glass \$1,255.64; Diamond Pharmacy Services \$430.01; Dinkel Law Office \$600.00; Division of Accounts & Reports \$150.00; Dorendo Harrel \$86.48; Eagle Communications \$641.17; Economic Development Petty Cash \$187.99; Ed Roehr Safety Products \$894.02; Eklund's First Insurance \$100.00; Elections System & Software \$3,014.33; Elliott's \$25.00; Ellis County Regional HHW Program \$500.00; Evans-Bierly-Hutchinson Associates \$49,742.44; Evercom Systems \$665.00; Finley Motors \$925.03; First Bankcard \$903.60; First National Bank \$46.88; Fisher Scientific \$2,352.97; Fixsen Electronics \$59.25; Flatlander Fall Festival Committee \$1,000.00; Fred's Auto Repair \$65.33; Frontier Equity \$72,959.04; Gall's \$1,291.78; Garry Moore \$37.60; Glaxosmithkline Financial \$1,910.04; Glen L Dehart & Sons \$5,223.82; Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce \$50.00; Goodland Greenline \$6,525.41; Goodland Machine \$18.00; Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy \$30.45; Goodland Regional Medical Center \$20,205.51; Goodland Star \$7,676.04; Goodland Yost \$312.81; Goodwin Law \$642.00; Guaranteed Recycling Xperts \$4,647.00; Hays Mack Sales & Service \$264.33; Helen Dobbs \$451.30; Helena Chemical \$385.49; Hemocue \$994.00; Herl Chevrolet \$954.78; High Plains Office Supply \$3,525.52; Hitchcock \$140.00; Holiday Inn-Hutchinson \$221.80; Hopkins Medical Products \$491.49; Hyatt Regency Wichita \$606.86; Ideal Linen Supply \$1,152.81; Ikon Office Solutions \$26.45; In the Can \$771.50; Infinitec \$5,713.02; IPC Command Systems \$476.66; Iris Scheopner \$81.76; J & J Drainage Products \$2,709.00; J.O.M. Pharmaceutical Services \$1,806.34; Jackie Jorgensen \$360.00; James M Milliken \$52.34; Janet Rumpel \$242.58; Jason Showalter \$75.00; Jeannett Escarcega \$25.00; Judy McKee \$115.62; K&K Storage \$120.00; K&K Tree & Lawn \$80.00; Kandee Raile \$10.68; Kanorado Coop \$251.52; KS Association of District Court Clerks & Administration \$125.00; KS County Officials Associations \$350.00; Kansas Emergency Management Association \$100.00; Kansas Judicial Branch \$98; Kansas Pathology Consultants \$632.00; Kansas State University \$125.00; Kansas Truck Center \$749.54; Kansasland \$5,490.10; Karla Meissinger \$98.33; Karlin Barton \$118.46; Kayla Weber \$100.00; Kendal Cooper \$1,200.00; Kenneth Palmgren \$9.40; Kevin Butts \$75.00; Knox Consultant Service \$1,585.50; KSU Entomology \$50.00; KUMC-AHEC \$120.00; L & S Repair \$340.60; Lampton Welding Supply \$202.05; Lance Goodman \$75.00; Language Line Services \$179.90; Larry Minner Rentals \$1,800.00; Larry's Professional 2-Way \$629.50; Laurence Taylor \$1,080.50; Laurie Albin \$605.70; Lawson Products \$496.41; League of Kansas Municipalities \$30.00; Lewis, Beims, & Holste \$494.00; Lina Zinn \$325.00; Lisa House \$135.00; Lockwood Company \$886.20; Lucy Thomas \$50.00; Lyle Noordhoek MD PA \$1,820.00; Malsom Enterprises \$49,420.00; Marshall & Swift \$823.15; Martin Tractor \$12,755.77; Marvin Duell \$39.48; Mary Ann Snethen \$13.10; Massco Supplies \$1,088.94; McClung's Appliance \$299.00; McClure Plumbing & Heating \$194.19; McKesson Medical Surgical \$1,208.12; Mechanical Component Company \$255.85; Med Enterprises \$564.50; Medibadge \$51.80; Medical Arts Clinic/Hellerud \$247.07; Melvin Sieck \$15.04; Merck Human Health \$1,424.34; MHC Kenworth \$3,451.72; Mike Miller \$5,775.00; Midwest Energy \$292.38; Miller's Home Center \$427.29; Mobile Drill \$1,226.04; Motor Midwest \$325.00; Motorola \$317.00; Mr Good Rinse \$6.30; Murray's Custom Body & Paint \$820.70; National Crime Prevention \$97.35; NDF Company \$95.83; Oakley Graphic \$4.00; Office Works & Home Furnishings \$310.23; Online Stores \$610.04; Orschelns \$1,152.24; Overhead Door \$132.50; Parts House-Napa \$805.85; Paula Keller \$779.76; Penco Engineering \$122,518.44; Peoples State Bank \$28,899.00; Physician's Reference Lab \$397.80; Pioneer Health/Eisenbart \$750.00; Prairie States Communications \$4,036.00; Price Digests \$217.91; Prints & The Paper \$2,460.10; Project Development \$1,470.16; PVD Education Fund \$25.00; Quad County Task Force \$5,000.00; Quality Inn-Hays \$115.50; Ramona Kashka \$12.95; Rasure Lumber \$285.44; Register of Deeds Certification Program \$60.00; Retailers Sales Tax \$118.49; Rhea Daise \$11.72; Ri Tech Industrial Products \$486.70; Richard Miller \$75.00; Robert McClure \$103.74; Robert Pope II \$75.00; Rocan Industrial Products \$499.00; Rod Boyce \$544.30; Rod Scott \$31.00; Roger Studer \$82.46; S & T Communications \$6,718.36; S & W Supply \$27.76; Sam Siruta \$50.00; Sanofi Pasteur \$9,695.47; SBC \$2,767.18; SBC Global Services \$1,046.25; Scheopner's Water Conditioning \$335.00; Scott Showalter \$2,530.00; SE & EC Recycling Association \$6,895.20; Security Cameras Direct \$642.00; Serendipity Flower Shop \$30.00; Service Oil Company \$2,840.80; Shad's Electric \$1,376.29; Shell Card Center \$89.07; Sherman County Convention/Visitors Bureau \$21,059.06; Sherman County Economic Development \$37,500.00; Sherman County Health Department \$210.00; Sherman County Racing Association \$1,000.00; Sherman County Rural Fire \$180.00; Sherman County Sheriff's Department \$29.68; Sherman County Treasurer \$6,897.48; Sherryl Ketter \$36.19; Shores Bumper to Bumper \$1,524.69; Simpson Farm Enterprises \$994.88; Sirchie Finger Print Labs \$222.05; Smile Makers \$71.93; Spider Website Design \$302.75; Sporer Land Development \$530,972.54; Stan Purvis \$205.00; Steve Duell \$75.27; SW Mgmt Fund-KDHE \$1,483.75; T.J.'s Tires \$124.91; Teamch \$70.00; Thomas County Treasurer \$1,247.35; Thyssenkrupp Elevator \$1,981.12; TMHC Services \$762.50; Topside Office Products \$1,970.52; Transportation Supplies \$123.10; Trego County \$1,400.00; Truck & Tractor \$871.81; UAP Distribution \$34,111.27; Unique Truck Equipment \$267.90; United States Postal Service \$2,643.87; Universal Lubricants \$82.00; Van's Body & Frame \$2,418.87; Vegetation Management Supply \$285.25; Vern Herrman Motor Supply \$219.36; Vignery & Mason \$5,140.72; Vonfeldt, Bauer, Vonfeldt Chartered \$10,457.17; Wagner Equipment Company \$153.00; Wal-Mart \$3,994.89; Walter F Stephens Jr \$133.98; Warren Sweat \$2,115.00; Wear Parts & Equipment \$4,034.79; Weathercraft Roofing \$17,869.00; Weis Fire Safety Equipment \$1,803.62; Western Uniform & Towel Service \$185.70; WH Scale Company \$1,140.00; Willard Crumrine \$16.92; William Knitig \$75.00; Witness Fees \$10.00; Witzel & Rhea Implement; Wyeth Pharmaceuticals \$419.91; Zurich North America
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$4,270,208.54

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