

Four banks bid on grader lease

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkans.com

Sherman County commissioners approved a lease-purchase with Western State Bank on Monday for a quarter-million-dollar motor grader for the Road and Bridge Department.

Curt Way, public works manager, who presented the bank bids to the commissioners, said the bank offered the lowest interest rate of the four in town.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede read the interest rates out for each bank. First National Bank bid 4.99 percent; Bankwest was 4.999 percent, Western State 4.54 percent and People's State Bank at 6 percent.

Tiede asked Way who the last county lease was with, and Way said it was Western State Bank.

The grader, a new 140M demonstrator, cost \$244,740, but Martin Tractor took a 1996 140H grader in trade for \$90,000, and gave an additional 3 percent discount of \$7,300 to bring the price to \$147,389.

Way said he would pay Martin Tractor \$14,389 as a down payment and the lease-purchase with the bank would cover the remaining \$100,000.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas

made a motion to do the lease-purchase, and Way asked him to go to the bank to sign the documents on Monday.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Way if Jerol DeBoer, an engineer and owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, had gotten the road plans done for County Road 16. Way said he had not heard from DeBoer but would check.

Rasure said it would be good for DeBoer to be on the agenda for the next meeting, which has been changed to Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Way said he would have DeBoer call and get on the agenda.

Rasure asked if Way has heard from DeBoer or Midwest Energy about moving the power poles along the east side of the road and whether that cost would be handled by Midwest.

Way said it would be Midwest's cost if all the poles are in the county right of way, adding that DeBoer had told him all the power poles are in the right of way.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he thought DeBoer would bring the bid package out in January to get approval before it is sent out.

Rasure said it is important for DeBoer to be at the next meeting to

get the bid packages out in January if the plan is to have a March construction start.

Thomas said the next meeting had been changed to 8 a.m. Wednesday at the request of Leadership Sherman County, so the class would be able to attend the meeting.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Asked for more information on a request to use the 4-H building by a group working with some teens who are going to New York. Building Superintendent William McKnight said he had a request to use the building to meet on Sunday, Jan. 20. Rasure asked who was sponsoring the program.

- McKnight said he thought it was through the school district, and that some teachers are involved. He said the building would be used for a few hours to meet with the kids and let them know the details of the trip.

- Tiede said he thought allowing them to use the building for two or three hours wouldn't mess it up very much.

- Rasure asked McKnight to get a letter from the group saying who they are and what the purpose of the meeting is. He said it would be good for the county to have something in

writing to know what was going on.

- Approved year-end bills totaling \$264,277. The commissioners questioned a \$3,104 bill from Terry Baker for work at the fairgrounds. Tiede said he did not know what had been done or if any bids had been taken. Rasure said that Fair Board President Steve Duell had told them there was some work that needed to be done, but didn't say how much.

- The commissioners agreed that for a bill of that size should have been brought to a meeting so they would know what was going on.

- Rasure said he would talk to Duell ask him to bring things to the commission in the future.

- Agreed to sign an agreement with AT&T for moving the phone lines on County Road 16.

- Spent about three hours in closed-door session going over the employee evaluations, then approved the salary schedule as presented. The commissioners also approved a 3 percent raise for department heads and elected officials. All the other raises were based on the employee evaluations.

The next meeting will be 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the commission room of the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

Online university plans to open Goodland office

ONLINE, from Page 1a

with economic development to start businesses in Sherman County.

"It will be a great economic stimulator for this community," she said.

And Wing said she believes strongly the university will be able to help and support the technical college.

"They're very hands-on," she said, "and we're not. They offer training in specific areas that we don't. We are enough different that we won't be in competition for the same students."

The university plans to open in April and begin taking enrollment as early as February, Wing said, but that depends on getting a lease agreement signed for a building. For now, she is work-

ing out of her home and is taking calls for the university there. The number is (877) 534-6094.

The university will start with just one classroom, she said, since most students will be taking video classes. There won't be a lot of classes all day, she said, but projected enrollment indicated the university may grow at a pace that will require expansion from that site in about 10 months.

The university, accredited through the Life Experience Education Accreditation, is a private operation that does not depend on government money, she said. Students will get a discount if they pay their tuition up front, or the university will accept payments. They will also get a discount for enrolling before the grand opening, she said.

Tech college offers general education classes

For the first time this year, Northwest Kansas Technical College is offering all of the general education classes necessary to earn a college degree — an Associate of Applied Science.

While the college is known for a hands-on approach to helping students get a job, math, English, humanities, applied sciences and social sciences classes now are available to help students earn a college degree as well.

This fall, the college began offering courses in technical math, ethics in the workplace, and human relations for life and work, in addition to the technical writing and computer applications classes offered last year.

Students in some departments now have the option of a one-year program in which they can earn a technical certificate or taking general education classes needed to earn a college degree. That means they can learn not only how to repair a diesel engine, operate a computer network or help patients with asthma management, they can learn about personal finance, essay writing, cultural sensitivity and the psychology of goal setting.

The Associate of Applied Science degree can be transferred to bachelor's degree programs at three Kansas colleges: Fort Hays State University, Pittsburgh State University and Washburn University in Topeka, said Ken Clouse, college

president. Transfer agreements are in the works with Kansas State University at Salina and the University of Phoenix online degree program.

Goodland resident Stephon Reese, a student in the Automotive Technology Program, expects to receive his associate's degree this spring. From there, the 28-year-old father of three plans to transfer the technical college credits he's earned to K-State, where he will work on a bachelor's degree. The associate's degree not only helps him academically, he said, but should have benefits in the workforce.

"The general education classes give a broader view of what's expected on the job, like interpersonal skills and technical writing," Reese said. "It

gives a greater sense of the workforce demands; also there's always the connection you make in the classroom and seeing different viewpoints."

Classes are being taught by experienced educators including Larry Koon, a former Colby Community College instructor; Angie Witman, a licensed marriage and family therapist; former Goodland High School teachers Gaylene Shank and Linda VanLoenen; and Jeremy Skrdlant.

Hospital planning for busy year

BUDGET, from Page 1a

The hospital's financial and statistical data through November lists average daily censuses for each month between 7.7 in April and 10.64 in February.

The hospital expects 23,000 visits at the clinic, Precht said, up from nearly 20,000 projected for this year.

Some full-time positions have been trimmed back, he said, but a few departments will have a small increase in employment.

The hospital may lose the "disproportionate share" payments, Precht said, money from the state to help hospitals that see a larger share of Medicaid patients than most. The Kansas Health Policy Authority hasn't made the decision yet, he said, adding that he didn't include that money in the budget in case the hospital doesn't get it.

"I think there is a higher prob-

ability it will go away than it won't," he added.

The hospital is budgeting over \$200,000 in charity care, Precht said, and depreciation is higher than in the past. The county appropriation should increase by \$100,000, he said, adding that Administrator Jay Jolly had talked to the commissioners about needing money to recruit doctors, and they told him they would help.

The budget doesn't include any raises for the staff, Precht added.

The budget includes projected operating expenses including \$4,201,800 for wages and salaries; \$1,279,800 for benefits and taxes; \$1,419,000 for professional fees; \$2,725,100 for supplies; \$777,100 for purchased services; \$84,600 for lease expense; \$436,900 for utilities; \$113,000 for insurance; \$46,400 for depreciation; \$858,900 for depreciation; nothing for bad debt; and \$448,000 for other.

Board members had a few questions before approving the budget. Jacque Drennan wanted to know if the doctors were aware that they would need to see that many patients and was told that goal had been discussed with the medical staff.

Lynn Hoelting wondered if they hospital was able to recruit someone, would there also be money for moving expenses and a bonus. Precht said that was already factored into the recruiting expense.

Patty Eckhardt asked about the reduction in transcriptions at the health center. Precht said the new clinic software is more efficient and makes the staff more effective. All the board members wanted to know what the finance committee thought; Steve Riebel, board chair, said the committee had recommended the budget.

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Colby Community College — Goodland Outreach Spring 2008

Goodland Enrollment:
Tuesday, January 8th, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. MT; Northwest Kansas Technical College Murray Center
Tuesday, January 8th, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. MT, at the Goodland High School Cafeteria

Outreach Schedules covering all locations are available at the Goodland Public Library.

Please register in advance for ITV classes so textbooks and handouts can be available.

Course Number	Course Name	Instructor	CR	Tuition + Fees	Place	Time	Start Date
MONDAY							
ML 237	Spanish Comp. & Conversation	Susan Hall	3	\$234	Murray Center	6:00-9:00 pm	1/14
TUESDAY							
HI 177	American History 1865 to Present (\$40 Telecourse Fee)	R. Walz	3	\$274	Murray Center	3:35-6:35 pm	1/22
WEDNESDAY							
PH 103	Earth Science with Lab	D. Friedrichs	5	\$390	GHS Tech.Bldg.	6:00-9:00 pm	1/9
PH 103L	Earth Science Lab (\$40 Telecourse Fee)	D. Friedrichs	0	\$40	GHS Tech.Bldg.	6:00-9:00 pm	1/9
WEEKEND WORKSHOPS							
PS 111	Cults (\$5 ITV Fee)	S. Herron	1	\$83	Murray Center	4:30-10:00 pm Fri. 7 am - 5 pm Sat	4/4
PS 112	Anger / Stress (\$5 ITV Fee)	S. Callihan	1	\$83	Murray Center	4:30- 10:00 pmFri 7 am - 5 pm Sat	5/2
DUAL CREDIT CLASSES @ GHS							
EN 177	English Composition II	L. Van Loenen	3	\$234	GHS	Day	1/15
SP 176	Public Speaking	Susan Hall	3	\$234	GHS	Day	1/15
MA 178	College Algebra **	J. Elliott	3	\$234	GHS	Day	1/15
TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)							
AL 104	Nurse Aide	S. Pearson	5	\$390	Good Samaritan	TBA	TBA
AR 123	Intro. to Crafts (Stained Glass)	C. Kickler	3	\$234	TBA	TBA	TBA

Tuition indicated is for Kansas residents only. Refer to tuition note below for non-resident rates.

Tuition is \$78.00 per credit hour for Kansas residents; \$117.00 per credit hour for non-residents; \$88.00 per credit hour for special non-residents. Some laboratory classes may have a special course fee. **Special non-residents** are any residents of Colorado and Nebraska.

ITV classes require pre-registration and have an additional \$5.00 per credit hour fee. Contact Sharon Hall

** Mandatory Placement is required for College Algebra. Contact Sharon Hall for information.

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  Cynthia Butts

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