

Financial Outlook Good For Kearney County Hospital

Written by themindencourier

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More than just a building of bricks and mortar, the Kearney County hospital has efficiently served the health care needs of the area for fifty-six years.

It serves as a beating heart in the body of Kearney County, ensuring not only economic security and employment for the community but also the health and well-being of its citizens.

The Kearney County Health Services Administration and the Board of Trustees have worked tirelessly to maximize the functionality and capacity of the existing facility through resourcefulness, vision and a desire to meet the community's needs and provide excellent patient care.

To maintain the hospital and keep current with federally mandated codes, the hospital has reinvested millions of dollars back into the facility from its operating revenue.

Since fiscal years 2009-2010, KCHS has managed to fund the majority of the federal and state mandated projects on its own; however, new federal and state mandates in standards of care have forced the hospital to ask the county to support a bond issue for new construction and renovation so these mandates can be met and the facility does not risk losing Medicare and Medicaid funding.

Since 2009, KCHS has reinvested \$1,669,249.93 into the facility for mandated upgrades.

"Let's start with the mandated improvements," said Rebekah Mussman, Kearney County Health Services CFO. "Since fiscal year 2010, we have had several mandated improvement projects. The mandates that have been completed to date include the fire sprinkler system extension, the HVAC system and electrical upgrade, the oxygen tank enclosure, power strips and door jams." said Mussman.

Although the HVAC (heating and cooling renovation) and electrical upgrade required partial bond funding, the hospital paid for the remaining 1.3 million with operating revenue. The new system is set up to require no additional renovation and can be connected to the new wing if the construction bond is approved.

Not all the improvements at KCHS were mandates. Two projects, the CT Scanner and the computerized radiology and digital mammography were completed to improve patient care and services at the hospital.

"We purchased our own sixteen slice CT and brought it in-house to improve our patient care," said Mussman. "The total cost of that project was \$468,000 and that was funded through our operations. In addition, we computerized our radiology department installing a computerized radiology system and digital mammography, which has increased our volumes. The total cost of that project was just under \$150,000 with \$100,000 being funded from our hospital foundation with proceeds from the Wine, Wreaths and Whimsy fund-raiser."

Since the installation, CT volumes have increased by 54 percent and digital mammography volumes have increased by 46 percent.

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