

## Hearing set on clinic expansion

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Herald Senior Writer

Financing the Franklin County Mental Health's expansion will be the subject of a public hearing at 10 a.m. Feb. 27 at the Franklin County Courthouse, 315 S. Main St., Ottawa.

The county plans to issue "certificates of participation" to help pay for the expansion at the Eisenhower Road clinic. Mental Health has received \$400,000 from a Community Development Block Grant and expects to receive another \$314,000 from a state tax credit program for the expansion.

The county is required to have the public hearing on Mental Health's application, Dottie Riley, the Mental Health's bond consultant, said during the Franklin County Commission's meeting Monday.

The proposed expansion has been in the works for two years, and an architect is working on the final plans.

Work is expected to begin this summer.

The Eisenhower Road facility would be expanded by about 150 percent and some services available at the facility would be increased. The parking area at the Eisenhower facility and severe storm shelter would be built.

Technically, the certificates of participation are a type of bond that would make the county ultimately liable to repay them, which cuts the interest rates for the certificates. However, Mental Health

officials have said the certificates would be paid entirely from the clinic's revenues and no county tax money would be used to repay them.

In other matters, the commission:

- Issued a special use permit to the Kansas Alpaca Co., at Pawnee and Kentucky roads, to allow it to sell alpaca wool products.

The firm has become an increasingly popular tourist stop, Commissioner Roy Dun said.

"It's been a fine addition to Franklin County," Dunn said.

- Agreed to buy a fourth patrol car from low bidder Olathe Ford for Sheriff Craig Davis. Davis said he would trade three cars in as part of the bid but keep a fourth car, which he would give to Juvenile Justice.

The fourth car, an unmarked car, would be used to ferry juveniles to a holding facility at Topeka, he said.

The Franklin County Jail has run out of space for juveniles and Davis said that two days last week, he had to pay overtime to have his deputies take juveniles in marked patrol cars to Topeka when the county's juvenile unit maxed out.

For legal and insurance reasons, only deputies drive marked patrol cars, he said.

By giving Juvenile Justice an unmarked car, juvenile officials can haul juveniles to Topeka when they need to, rather than asking deputies to do it, he said.

- Sent a request by Ray-

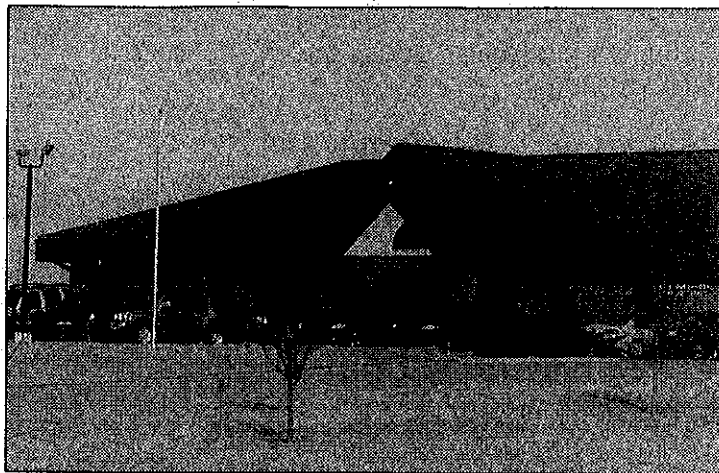


Photo by John Nowak/The Ottawa Herald

Franklin County Mental Health is looking to expand its children's services building at 2537 Eisenhower Road. A public hearing about the expansion's financing will be Feb. 10 at the Franklin County Courthouse in Ottawa.

mond Sundstrom to rezone 18 acres along Kentucky Road between Sand Creek and Pawnee roads from an agricultural zoning classification to a residential classification back to the county planning commission.

Sundstrom had filed a subdivision plan since the planners had looked at the request, Larry Walrod, county planning and zoning director, said. Commissioners instructed the planners to examine the subdivision plan.

However, enough neighbors have protested the rezoning to require the county commission to come up with a "supermajority," or four of the five commissioners, to approve the rezoning, Walrod said.

- Agreed to allow Ohio Road to Shawnee Road to be used for a bicycle race beginning in Baldwin City June 10.

- Accepted the low bid of \$30,500 for a Ford F550 heavy duty truck from Laird Noller, Lawrence, on behalf of the Franklin County Solid Waste Authority.

The truck will be used to pick up recycled items in the county and will replace an older truck, Rick Sawin, solid waste director, said. The cargo box from the older truck will be put on the new truck, he said.

In addition, Laird Noller will give the Solid Waste Department another \$4,000 if the older truck is traded in. Sawin said he intends to do that.