

DC Commissioners finalize salaries for 2015

Written by Austin Benson

Thursday, 09 January 2014 14:52 -

DAWSON COUNTY OFFICIAL SALARIES			
County Office	Final	Proposed	Current
Attorney	\$87,100	\$85,100	\$78,116
Sheriff	\$72,640	\$71,640	\$68,254
Clerk	\$60,610	\$58,610	\$54,277
Surveyor	\$55,730	\$53,730	\$51,180
Assessor	\$54,610	\$52,610	\$50,070
Clerk of Dist. Court	\$54,610	\$52,610	\$50,070
Register of Deeds	\$54,610	\$52,610	\$50,070
Treasurer	\$54,610	\$52,610	\$50,070
Commissioners	\$175,110	\$172,250	\$170,000
Chairman	\$16,510	\$16,250	\$16,000

Salaries settled

Dawson County Commissioners finally reached an agreement for county office salaries that left some office holders unsatisfied after a meeting Nov. 15.

When the salary increases were first proposed both Elizabeth Waterman, county attorney, and county sheriff Gary Reiber voiced concerns that the salaries set for their respective offices were too low.

In a meeting Dec. 31, commissioners set the final salaries starting in 2015. All of the positions, except for the commissioners, saw a \$2,000 raise from the proposed amount in a November meeting.

The county attorney's salary was set at \$87,100. In November, Dawson County attorney Elizabeth Waterman said it would require a minimum of \$90,000 to attract people with skills required to handle the workload.

The new salary increases which range from 7.7% to 11.7% go into effect for those people elected in the November 2014 election. A yearly 3% increase is planned through 2018.

Commissioners were less generous with their own salaries authorizing only a 3% increase.

In other business, commissioners approved a juvenile services aid grant application.

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The application is for a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program director salary and two part-time positions.

In the past this particular grant offered \$28,000 in resources but due to the passing of LB561 it could provide close to \$80,000, Midwest Nebraska Drug Court coordinator Steve Garcia said.

If the grant is awarded funds would be used to pay for CASA director Linda Shaw's salary along with supplying a part-time juvenile facilitator to expand into the high school for at-risk kids, said Deb Jensen of Dawson Area Development.

Another positive for the grant being awarded is the match payment the county would have to pay.

It was dropped from a 40% match to around 10%, or \$8,262, Garcia said.

If the grant is approved, Jensen said, the county would not have any additional cost for office space.

The grant would be awarded through June 30, 2015, but when it was no longer available, part time outreach coordinator, program director and juvenile facilitator contracts would need to come from other sources, Jensen said.

The grant application, which is being prepared by the DAD office, is due by Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.

In other business, commissioners awarded a bid for two mower tractors to Fairbanks International of Grand Island for the price of \$228,600.

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