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Brown Co Commission Begins 2014 Budget Process

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission Monday heard the first round of 2014 budget requests, totaling more than \$2.9 million.

Various county department heads and representatives of organizations receiving funding from the county met with the commission to go over their budget requests.

Most of the requests were for small increases in funding or the same amount as this year. However, Sheriff John Merchant requested a total increase of more than \$187,000 for the sheriff's office, dispatch and jail.

The commission will hear the remainder of the budget requests next week.

They will then work on drafting a proposed 2014 budget for publication.

One of the big unknowns for 2014 is the cost of county employee health insurance. The county's insurance broker has estimated a 20 percent increase.

Commissioners are expected to adopt a 2014 budget following a public hearing in August.

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