

### Holt County Renews Employee Health Policy for 2014

(KTNC) - The Holt County Commission has voted to renew its group health insurance policy with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City for another year.

The premium costs increased a total of 13.7-percent, to \$634.38 per month, with a \$3,500 deductible. Commissioners agreed to have the county pick up \$600 of the monthly premium cost for each employee, with employees paying \$34.38.

The county's contribution is an increase from previous years, and County Clerk Kathy Kunkel says \$600 per employee is a "substantial" cost to the county as health insurance costs continue to increase.

Employees did not contribute to health insurance premiums in 2013, but have in the past.

Kunkel says commissioners will likely revisit the health insurance issue late next summer. She says the county likely won't be able to continue to provide the same level of coverage for employees at the same cost.

On a related note, Holt County commissioners have also agreed to retain Mick Derr of Derr Insurance Services in Maitland to provide Medicare supplement services for employees that take Medicare rather than the county's group health insurance plan.