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Brown Co Commission Supports Mortgage Registration Fee

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission is urging state lawmakers and Governor Brownback to retain the state's mortgage registration fee.

The commission Monday approved a resolution in support of keeping the fee in place.

The Kansas Bankers Association plans to push during the 2014 Legislative session for elimination of the fee, which is charged when a mortgage is filed with a county register of deeds. The fee is .26 percent of the amount of the mortgage.

The resolution states the mortgage registration fee, which has been in place since 1925, is an important revenue source for counties, and is one of a very few streams counties have to finance essential county services.

Last year, the registration fee generated more than \$90,000 in revenue for Brown County. Without the fee, the resolution says county taxpayers would have experienced a .725 mill levy increase. The fee generated more than \$108,000 in 2012.

Commissioner Warren Ploeger says he plans to travel to Topeka to meet with the county's two legislators, Senator Dennis Pyle and Representative Randy Garber, to encourage them to vote against elimination of the fee.

During their annual re-organization, Keith Olsen was re-appointed commission chairman for 2014.

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