

Sheriff discusses issues with jail HVAC system

(KNZA)--There continues to be issues with the heating and cooling system at the Brown County Jail.

Sheriff John Merchant told the Brown County Commission this week they've had issues with the HVAC system since it was installed when the jail was built eight years ago.

Merchant, during the meeting, shared with the Commission a letter he had received from a local vendor that has worked on the system expressing their concerns about the installed equipment. "There are some controllers that operate the units and they are becoming obsolete," Merchant said. "They are going to be working on them as long as they can but suggested we look into getting the heating and air conditioning units at the Sheriff's Office replaced."

Merchant said the vendor theorizes why failures are happening despite the age of the system. "When a new building is constructed, a lot of times contractors put things out for bid. So they will try to find the most inexpensive units they can, and said its possible these units might have been sitting in the warehouse for 4-5 years. They were new when they were installed, however, they might had some age on them when the installation was taken care of."

Merchant told commissioners he would like to bring in a couple of mechanical engineers to evaluate the system and make a recommendation.

Commissioner's suggested Merchant send out a letter of intent to bid out the project to local HVAC contractors.

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