

Pawnee County to participate in Drug Court

**(KLZA)-- Pawnee County Commissioners spent a good portion of their meeting time on January 15th visiting with County Attorney Jennifer Stehlik Ladman about a Drug Court proposed in Southeast, Nebraska.**

**Stehlik Ladman says a Drug Court targets alternative solutions instead of incarceration for drug offenders.**

**It is an 18-month program with a bulk of the cost paid by the State for the Probation Officer. The defendants would need to meet certain stipulations before being allowed to go to Drug Court.**

**There has been talk of expanding a Drug Court to include Pawnee, Johnson, Richardson, Nemaha and Otoe counties. The State must approve the program.**

**The cost to expand the program into these counties would be \$26,400. Each county pays a flat amount plus the number of participants. The cost for the first year for Pawnee County would be just over \$2,900. The following years the cost would be \$1,000 plus the costs for the local participants.**

**Stehlik Ladman said three of the 11 current open drug cases in Pawnee County would be eligible to participate and she estimated Pawnee County would likely have 1 – 3 people a year referred to Drug Court.**

**Following the discussion, the Pawnee County Board voted unanimously to participate in the Drug Court.**

Many Signals Communications