

Commission approves new radios for deputies

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission this week approved the purchase of new radios for Sheriff's deputies and heard a request for the creation of a grant writer position to help obtain funding for the county's volunteer fire departments.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Don Pounds requested approval to purchase seven portable radios utilizing funding from his budget.

He said four of the Sheriff's Department's current portable radios are unuseable. Pounds said the average age of the department's radios is 10 years.

The Commission approved the purchase of the seven new radios at a cost of \$34,152.

Pounds also discussed the need for a professional grant writer to not only help obtain funding for the county's fire departments but also allow firefighters to focus on their duties.

He noted some of the fire departments are so underfunded they are paying for the gas to put in their fire trucks out of their own pockets.

Pounds said it takes a professional to write grants because there is so much competition for funding.

Horton Fire Chief Randy Mayfield, who was present for the discussion, said county's fire chiefs in a recent meeting were in agreement that a grant writer is needed.

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