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Brown Co. Sees Big Increase In Road Oil Price

The Brown County Commission is preparing for this summer's chip and seal road projects. The commission today (Monday) opened bids for the purchase of road oil and got a big shock—the three bids received were up significantly over last year.

The commission accepted the low bid from Vance Brothers of Kansas City for \$2.36 a gallon—which included an 8 cent per gallon freight charge.

The bid was 62 cents a gallon higher than the low bid accepted last year.

The county normally purchases around 500,000 gallons of oil a year for the chip and seal work. However, Commissioner Warren Ploeger said they don't know how many gallons they will be purchasing this year because of the higher than expected increase. Ploeger said they are going to have to make some changes in the county's chip and seal program for this year because of the big price increase.

On average, the county chip and seals about 90 miles of county roads each year plus streets in towns in the county and for other governmental entities. The county's more than 260 miles of roads are currently chip and sealed on a three year rotation.