

Flat Monthly Fee Set for Brown Co. Court-Appointed Attorneys

The Brown County Commission has approved a contract that will pay court-appointed attorney's in the county a flat monthly fee instead of on a case-by-case basis.

After a few revisions suggested by County Attorney Kevin Hill, the commission today (Monday) approved the contract with attorney's Andy Delaney and Judd Herbster along with Northeast Kansas Legal Services.

Delaney and Herbster will each be paid \$2,200 a month. Paul Kloepper with Northeast Kansas Legal Services will be paid \$1,000 a month.

The contract will run from May 1st through December 31st of this year, and includes a 30-day termination clause.

Delaney and Herbster presented the contract to commissioners last week for their consideration.

They said going with a flat monthly rate will help the county in the budgeting process because actual expenses will be known, and it will help them by cutting down on paperwork.

County Commission Chairman Steve Robert said he thinks it will make it alot easier for everyone.

During the past three years, the county has seen a more than 86 percent increase in expenses for court-appointed services due to the large number of juvenile cases in the county. Expenses last year topped more than \$63,000.