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Brown Co Commission Discusses Dispatch Contract Dispute

(KNZA)--Discussion on the contract between Brown County and the city of Hiawatha for dispatch services dominated Monday's meeting of the Brown County Commission.

County Attorney Kevin Hill and Sheriff John Merchant joined commissioners for the discussion.

The Hiawatha City Commission agreed last week to pay the county \$38,000 this year and again next year for providing dispatch services, per an agreement they made in 1990.

However, Hill says the Hiawatha City Commission voted in 2011 to modify the agreement and increase the amount they pay the county to \$55,500 per year, effective January 2012.

County Clerk Debbie Parker says the city has been paying the increased amount since that time at \$4,625 a month.

Hill says if the city chooses to pay \$38,000 now they would be in breach of contract.

He advised the commission to take no action at this time, and wait to see if the city makes a lower payment next month.

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