

Grants to be sought for Hiawatha airport

(KNZA)--Grant funds will be sought for improvement projects at the Hiawatha Municipal Airport.

The city commission during a special meeting Thursday evening approved seeking two grants through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Airport Improvement Program for design engineering and renovation of the existing 4-unit T-hangar.

The design portion of the project is estimated at \$24,000. If awarded, the grant would cover 95 percent of the cost, with the city responsible for the remaining 5 percent or \$1,200.

Renovation of the hanger is estimated at \$100,000. If awarded, the grant would cover 85 percent of the cost, with the city responsible for the remaining 15 percent or \$15,000.

City Administrator Mike Nichols said renovation of the hanger would increase the number of aircraft based at the airport, airport revenue and the ability of the city to market the airport to potential businesses looking to locate in the area.

The Commission at their September 16 meeting approved seeking a KDOT grant for the installation of a new lighting system for the airport's two runways. If awarded, the grant would cover 85 percent of the project cost.

The city was awarded two grants earlier this year totaling \$38,000 for engineering design in preparation for the project.

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