

Caverzagie to serve as Richardson County Board Chair
(KLZA)-- Richardson County Commissioners conducted their Annual Meeting Tuesday.

District 1 Commissioner John Caverzagie has been elected Chairman of the Board for 2023. David Sickel will serve as Vice-Chairman.

The Board reaffirmed the appointment of Steve Darveau Jr. as Richardson County Highway Superintendent with an annual salary for 2023 of \$67,500 which was a 12.1% pay increase.

Brian Kirkendall was reappointed Emergency Manager and Noxious Weed Control Superintendent with an annual salary of \$62,776 which is also a 12.1% pay increase.

Mona Godemann was reappointed Veterans Service Officer with a salary of \$25.08 per hour, representing a 20% pay increase.

During the meeting Steve Mercure and Lindy Mahoney, the Richardson County contracted public defenders discussed the current contract and the number of cases being filed.

The current contract does not expire until the end of 2023, they informed the Board that they will be submitting a proposal for the new contract period that will reflect an increase in the cost, primarily due to a significant increase in the number of cases being filed since the current contract began.

The contract is for \$70 thousand annually.

According to the numbers submitted by the attorney's, when the current contract was bid in 2019, there was a total number of new case filings of 388 which increased to 722 in 2022 with the number of felony cases increasing from 64 in 2019 to 172 in 2022.