

Commission approves health insurance plan for employees

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha City Commission voted Monday evening to stay with the same health insurance plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for city employees.

The commission approved a revised proposal from BCBS that calls for an annual premium of \$335,000, which is \$25,000 under the city's current premium.

Greg Watkins, with Overland Park-based employee benefits consulting firm, Watko Benefit Group, joined the meeting via Zoom to go over the last minute quote. The city also received a proposal from Aetna. Also discussed was a high deductible plan from BCBS that could be combined with a health savings account and would save the city considerably more. While commissioners expressed an interest in the plan, they decided it was best to wait until next year to consider it further.

BCBS had proposed a 12.4 percent increase, effective April 1st, which would have brought the annual premium up to more than \$400,000 a year for the city's 36 employees and was more than \$40,000 over what the city had budgeted.

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