

## Why approve the Kearny County Hospital budget request?

The Kearny County Hospital 2009 – 2010 budget request to the Kearny County Commissioners is \$1,849,152. This amount equates to 6.796 mills which means that the residents of Kearny County will have the opportunity to approve this request at a special election scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

Why should you approve this request? The budget includes \$1,133,652 for operating costs and \$715,500 for capital equipment. This is the first time that KCH has included capital equipment in the budget request to the County Commissioners. Following is an explanation of several of the capital equipment purchases included in the budget:

- The government is mandating Electronic Health Records (EHR). Our budget includes \$250,000 for Phase One software to begin transitioning to an EHR facility and \$30,000 for scanning/archiving software also required for an EHR. Unfortunately, there is no upfront funding for this mandated initiative. Hospitals that do not have a “meaningful” EHR will begin seeing a cut in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement in 2015. The total cost of the EHR is estimated at \$1.5 million over the next four years.
- Electronic Medical Records at HPRV will enhance the documentation system and move us closer to the mandated EHR. Our budget includes \$80,000 for this Point of Care system. Because we receive funding from Medicaid this system will not only demonstrate the quality and quantity of services we provide, but will increase our reimbursement.
- The Lab is in need of a new hematology analyzer. This technology provides our physicians with a complete panel of blood test results within 20 minutes. Our current machine is beginning to require maintenance which is not only expensive, but also means an increased wait time for lab results. When the hematology analyzer is down for repairs, lab tests must be sent out to be read which can mean waiting several hours for results. Our budget includes \$100,000 for a new hematology analyzer.
- The surgery department performed over 350 procedures during the 2009 fiscal year. In addition KCH has a certified registered nurse anesthetist on-call 24-hours a day should the need arise for emergency surgical procedures. Our current anesthesia machines are aging and are expensive to maintain. Our budget includes \$75,000 for two new anesthesia machines that comply with the standards of care.
- The Emergency Department is in need of a new defibrillator. Our budget includes \$15,000 for this piece of life-saving equipment.
- The Physical Therapy and Cardiac Rehab departments are providing services to an increasing number of patients who are recovering from joint replacement and other surgical procedures performed at larger hospitals. Having technology in place at KCH allows the opportunity for rehabilitation closer to home. Our budget includes \$7,500 for a Nu Step Machine that is invaluable to patients during rehabilitation.

Kearny County Hospital is dedicated to the mission of providing quality, compassionate healthcare services for our community to enrich the lives of our families, friends and neighbors. On behalf of all the employees at Kearny County Hospital and High Plains Retirement Village I would like to thank you for your continued support of our organization.

I understand you may have more questions regarding the Kearny County Hospital budget request and I welcome the opportunity to answer those questions. Please contact me at 355-1382 or ReChelle Kennedy at 355-1380 to set up a time to talk. You may also visit our website at [www.kearnycountyhospital.com](http://www.kearnycountyhospital.com).