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New Brown Co Inmate Medical Care Contract Approved

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission has approved a contract with a Peoria, Illinois-based company to provide medical care for inmates housed in the county jail.

On the recommendation of Sheriff John Merchant, the commission Monday signed a contract with Advance Correctional Healthcare with the option for revisions.

Merchant says the Hiawatha Community Hospital no longer provides inmate medical care at the Brown County jail as of August 13th last year.

Art Rose, with Advance Correctional Healthcare, said the company will contract with a doctor and a nurse. He said a doctor will come to the jail every three weeks and a nurse will visit the facility six hours a week. In addition, Rose says there will be doctors on-call on a 24/7 basis.

Merchant said it will take much liability off the county.

Rose says the company currently works with 16 Kansas counties, including locally Atchison, Doniphan and Jackson.

Merchant said the county's annual cost would be \$28,962, with the cost being paid on a monthly basis. Rose said the cost would be higher if the county opts to have a local pharmacy provide the inmate medications. The county will check to see what the difference will be in price.

Merchant said the county paid \$22,000 to \$23,000 last year for inmate medical care.

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