

Brown Co Sheriff's Dept Getting Drug Dog

**(KNZA)--The Brown County Sheriff's Department will be adding a drug sniffing K-9 to its force.**

**Sheriff John Merchant told the County Commission Monday that after looking into it for a year, he feels the K-9 is needed.**

**Merchant says the black lab named Ari is being purchased for \$5,500, which includes training.**

**He says Deputy Cody Spire will serve as the dog's handler.**

**Merchant says while the K-9's major purpose will be for drug detection, the dog will also be used for therapy/comfort purposes. He said dog can be used to help a child that's gone through a traumatic event.**

**In other business, Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Lowe informed the Commission that he's taking a position with the Hiawatha Police Department.**

**Lowe said the reason he's leaving the county after five years is because the city provides better health insurance benefits for his family. He said it cost him more than \$1,100 a month for health insurance coverage for his family through the county's plan, while he will only be paying \$100 a month on the city's plan.**

**Lowe said he has enjoyed his time with the county and hopes the Commission can find a way to improve the cost of insurance.**

**He's to begin work with the Hiawatha Police Department on September 1st.**

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