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### Falls City Council Discusses Hiring Linemen

(KLZA) The Falls City, City Council Monday night voted 5-2 to give permission to advertise for the hiring of two linemen for the Utility Department as recommended by the Board of Public Works.

Utility Superintendent Alan Romine noted that there are a number of employees who are either currently eligible to retire, or will be in the near future.

Questions about how this would affect the electric department budget and the hiring freeze currently in place led to Councilman Kirby Roubidoux making a motion to table until a budget was submitted and the hiring freeze was further discussed. That motion died for lack of a second.

The motion to approve passed with Roubidoux and Council member Mike Dougherty casting nay votes. Council member Judy Murphy was absent.

Romine estimated the cost including benefits to hire a lineman would be \$73,000- \$80,000 depending on the insurance package.

City Administrator Gary Jorn said he feels it may be time to lift the hiring freeze.

EDGE Executive Director Beckie Cromer provided the first quarter report on economic development. Cromer began by talking about the bad news that AMES True Temper was going to be closing the companies Falls City facility.

On a brighter note, Cromer says the Wilderness Falls housing facility is now full and there is hope to expand the project.

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